ATHLON SPORTS
AMERICA'S PREMIER SPORTS PUBLISHER

COMPLETE ANALYSIS OF ALL 128 FBS TEAMS

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

2014 NATIONAL EDITION

The Athlon TOP 10

1. FLORIDA STATE
2. ALABAMA
3. OHIO STATE
4. OKLAHOMA
5. AUBURN
6. OREGON
7. UCLA
8. GEORGIA
9. SOUTH CAROLINA
10. BAYLOR

ALABAMA RB
T.J. YELDON

AUBURN QB
NICK MARSHALL

FLORIDA STATE QB
JAMEIS WINSTON

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109 Yards to Destiny

The now-legendary "Kick Six" – Chris Davis' TD return of a missed field goal on the final play to give Auburn a 34-28 win over Alabama in the 2013 Iron Bowl – is on the short list of the greatest plays in college football history.

AP Photo/Dave Martin

EDITOR'S LETTER

MITCH LIGHT, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Never before has there been so much debate between teams No. 4, 5 and 6 in our preseason rankings meeting. The reason? The inaugural College Football Playoff, which will send the top four teams in the nation — as voted on by a selection committee — to a three-game tournament that will crown the national champion.

In years past, we agonized over the top two teams in our rankings — the two teams we were predicting to play in the BCS title game — but now, the focus has shifted to our top four. It's an all-or-nothing proposition: If you are deemed to be one of the best four teams in the nation, you will have the opportunity to compete for a national championship. If you are ranked No. 5? It's off to a nice bowl destination — one of the newly named "New Year's Six" bowls — but you have no shot at winning the title.

We spent little time discussing our top three; Florida State, Alabama and Ohio State were consensus picks to make the four-team field. Things got tricky after that. The debate for No. 4 boiled down to Oklahoma, our pick in the Big 12, and the winner of the Pac-12, either Oregon or UCLA. After settling on Oregon (barely) in the Pac-12, the discussion came down to the Sooners vs. the Ducks for the final, coveted spot in our Playoff projections. There were strong arguments for both teams, but in the end we decided that Oklahoma — due to its easier schedule — was more likely to navigate its schedule with either one or no losses. The Sooners will be challenged, but at this point they would be favored in all 12 regular-season games. Oregon has a few more hurdles to jump; in the regular season, the Ducks host Michigan State and Stanford and play at UCLA. Then, assuming they win the North, they will have to play UCLA again (or possibly USC or Arizona State) in the league title game in Santa Clara, Calif. It can be done — especially if Marcus Mariota remains healthy — but we remain just a bit skeptical of the Chip Kelly-less Ducks.

Now that we've told you which four teams will be playing in the 2014 College Football Playoff, it's time to find out how this new format works. Athlon Sports senior writer David Fox answers all of the important questions on the new system in "Playoff Primer" on page 38.

We have some unsolicited advice for the members of the Playoff selection committee: Get to know the work of Bill Connelly, the advanced stats guru at SB Nation and a contributor to Athlon Sports. Connelly has boiled the game down to five very important factors, which he calls Five Factors: field position, efficiency, explosiveness, ability to finish drives and turnover margin. Bill guides us into the world of analytics in college football in his feature "Become a Smarter Fan" on page 34.

Speaking of smart fans, we'd like to see which four teams you believe will comprise the first College Football Playoff. Email us at editor@athlonsports.com or send us a note on Twitter, @athlonsports.

Enjoy the season.

Mitch Light, Executive Editor

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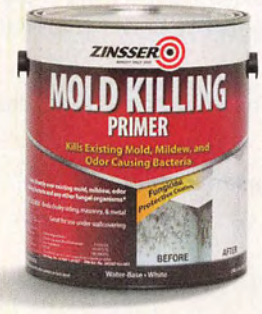

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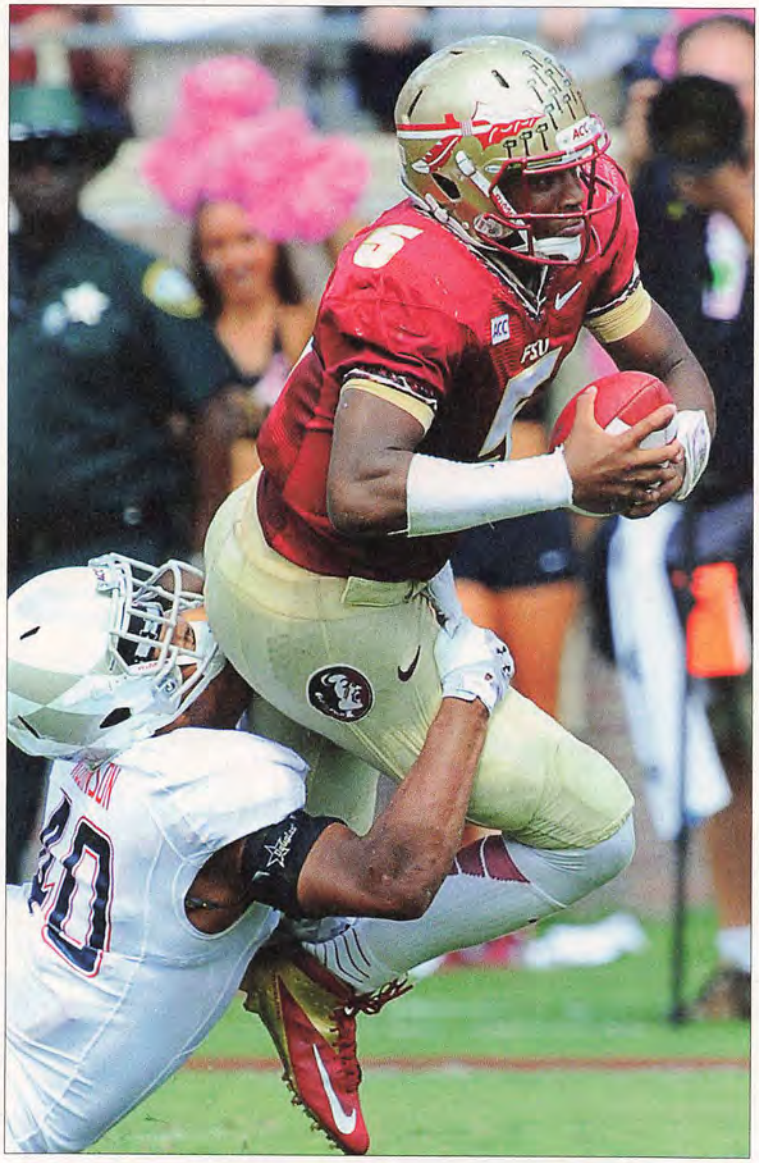
2014 ATHLON AWARDS

They're the teams within the team — those cohesive little units bound together by their shared responsibilities within the larger team context.

Whether it's the offensive linemen firing off time after time into those familiar blocking sleds, or the defensive linemen drilling repeatedly on how to shed blockers, or the defensive backs breaking on ball after ball — these teams in miniature hone their tasks on the practice field until those tasks become second nature.

Whether or not these units function as one can make the difference between winning and losing, and a single unit can carry a team to national championship.

It's entirely fitting, then, for us to honor the best of the best at each position with our 14th annual Athlon Awards.



1. FLORIDA STATE

Jameis Winston became the third Florida State quarterback to win the Heisman after one of the top freshman seasons in college football history. Winston threw for 4,057 yards, completed 66.9 percent of his passes and tossed 40 touchdowns en route to leading the Seminoles to the final BCS National Championship. He also led the FBS with a 184.9 quarterback rating and averaged 15.8 yards per completion. With Jacob Coker transferring to Alabama, the backup job will fall to unproven sophomore Sean Maguire.

TOP QB UNITS

2. OREGON A knee injury limited his effectiveness late last year, but Marcus Mariota finished 2013 with 3,665 passing yards and 31 touchdown tosses, along with 715 yards rushing and nine scores on the ground. Mariota's 4,380 total yards ranked ninth nationally, but he led the FBS by averaging 9.1 yards per touch in 2013. With Mariota returning to full strength, he should be among the favorites to win the Heisman in 2014. Jake Rodrigues and Jeff Lockie are in a tight battle for the backup spot, but incoming freshman Morgan Mahalak appears to be the quarterback of the future.

3. OHIO STATE Under the direction of coach Urban Meyer and coordinator Tom Herman, Braxton Miller has developed into a complete quarterback. Miller completed only 54.1 percent of his throws in 2011 but increased his percentage rate to 58.3 in 2012 and 63.5 in 2013. In addition to his growth as a passer, Miller has maintained his ability to hurt defenses with his legs. He has back-to-back 1,000-yard rushing seasons and averaged 6.2 yards per carry in 2013. Valuable backup Kenny Guiton has graduated, leaving Cardale Jones and J.T. Barrett vying for the No. 2 job.

4. BAYLOR Bryce Petty continued Baylor's recent run of successful signal-callers with a standout debut in 2013. Petty earned Big 12 Offensive Player of the Year honors after throwing for 4,200 yards and 32 touchdowns and recording 14 rushing scores. The senior was one of the most efficient quarterbacks in the nation, completing 62 percent of his passes and throwing only three picks in 403 attempts. With a loaded receiving corps at his disposal, Petty should easily surpass last year's totals in 2014. Seth Russell, who threw as many picks (three) in 43 passes as Petty did in 403, is the backup.

5. UCLA Despite an opportunity to go in the first round of the NFL Draft, Brett Hundley made the decision to return to UCLA. Hundley threw for 3,740 yards and 29 touchdowns as a freshman, but those totals dropped in 2013, as he finished with only 3,071 yards and 24 scores. A young offensive line and receiving corps are partly to blame for Hundley's drop in production, and the junior is poised to rebound in 2014. Although Hundley's passing numbers dropped last year, he remained one of the nation's top rushers at the quarterback position, recording 748 yards on 160 attempts. Redshirt freshman Asiantii Woulard, one of the top dual-threat QBs in the Class of 2013, is the Bruins' backup.

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11. Michigan State 12. Utah State 13. Marshall 14. Ole Miss
15. Missouri 16. Kansas State 17. Oklahoma 18. Indiana
19. North Carolina 20. Michigan 21. Mississippi State
22. East Carolina 23. Bowling Green 24. Oregon State 25. Stanford

Winston: Mark Langello; Yeldon: Chris Covatta

1. ALABAMA

T.J. Yeldon and Derrick Henry headline a Crimson Tide backfield that features six four- or five-star recruits. Yeldon led the team with 1,235 yards and 14 scores last season, while Henry finished with 382 yards and three touchdowns. Henry's role increased late in the season, and he is expected to earn a larger share of the carries in 2014. Kenyan Drake (694 yards in 2013), Jalston Fowler, Altee Tenpenney, Tyren Jones and Bo Scarbrough provide depth and plenty of big-play ability for new offensive coordinator Lane Kiffin.

2. GEORGIA This unit was hit hard by injuries last year, but with Todd Gurley and Keith Marshall back at full strength, combined with the addition of talented freshmen Nick Chubb and Sony Michel, the Bulldogs have one of the top backfields in the nation. In two years at Georgia, Gurley has averaged 6.1 yards per carry and rushed for 27 touchdowns. Marshall ran for 759 yards and eight touchdowns in 2012 but was limited to 246 yards last year due to a torn ACL. Michel and Chubb were both five-star recruits and should be future stars in Athens.

3. WISCONSIN Melvin Gordon surprisingly turned down the NFL for one more year in Madison. In 2013, he was one of only two players to record 200 carries and average over seven yards per attempt, and his 1,609 yards ranked second in the Big Ten. With James White gone to the NFL, Gordon's new sidekick in the Badgers' backfield will be sophomore Corey Clement, who shined in a limited role last fall. Clement led the Big Ten by averaging 8.2 yards per rush on 67 attempts as a true freshman.

4. NEBRASKA Ameer Abdullah headlines a Nebraska backfield that returns players responsible for 94.2 percent of the team's rushing production from last season. Abdullah led the Big Ten with 1,690 yards last year and had eight rushes of 30 yards or more. Imani Cross, a 230-pound junior, is a valuable asset on short-yardage situations. He led the Cornhuskers with 10 rushing scores and ranked second on the team with 447 yards in 2013. Terrell Newby (298 yards in 2013) and redshirt freshman Adam Taylor are in the mix for carries as well.

5. SOUTH CAROLINA Steve Spurrier was known for his passing offenses at Florida, but his South Carolina teams have been effective on the ground, averaging at least 190 yards per game in two out of the last three seasons. Mike Davis shined in his first year as the starter, averaging 5.9 yards per carry in SEC play. Davis is an *Athlon Sports* third-team preseason All-American for 2014. The Gamecocks have plenty of depth behind Davis, as Shon Carson and Brandon Wilds both rushed for over 200 yards last year.

6. Miami 7. Oregon 8. USC 9. Arkansas 10. Florida State 11. Michigan State 12. Texas 13. LSU 14. Auburn 15. Ohio State 16. Texas A&M 17. Boise State 18. BYU 19. Baylor 20. West Virginia 21. Northwestern 22. Penn State 23. Virginia 24. North Carolina 25. Stanford

TOP WR/TE UNITS

Chris Covatta

1. ALABAMA

New quarterback Jacob Coker's transition to the starting lineup should be smooth. The Crimson Tide welcome back three receivers who had at least 30 catches last season and have an emerging star in tight end **O.J. Howard**. Amari Cooper led the team with 45 catches and 736 receiving yards in 2013 and is expected to play a bigger role in the passing attack under new offensive coordinator Lane Kiffin. Joining Cooper as key cogs in the receiving corps will be DeAndrew White, Christion Jones, Chris Black and talented redshirt freshman Robert Foster. Howard, the sophomore tight end, averaged 19.2 yards per reception last year and is an *Athlon Sports* second-team preseason All-American for 2014.

2. BAYLOR Art Briles has assembled a receiving corps with as much speed, athleticism and talent as any in the nation. Antwan Goodley — a first-team All-Big 12 selection in 2013 — was Bryce Petty's go-to target last year, averaging 18.9 yards on 71 catches. Levi Norwood and Clay Fuller combined for 11 touchdown receptions last year and return as starters for 2014. This unit has a handful of players on the verge of a breakout year, including Corey Coleman, Jay Lee, Robbie Rhodes and incoming freshmen KD Cannon and Davion Hall.

3. GEORGIA Much like Georgia's running backs, the Bulldogs' receiving corps suffered through an assortment of injuries last year. Malcolm Mitchell (85 career catches) was lost in the opener due to a torn ACL but is expected to return at full strength by the fall. Michael Bennett and Chris Conley combined for 86 catches and eight touchdowns last year and round out the top three options for new starting quarterback Hutson Mason. Speedster Reggie Davis will be tough to keep on the sidelines, and Jay Rome is expected to replace Arthur Lynch at tight end.

4. FLORIDA STATE The Seminoles have to replace Kelvin Benjamin and Kenny Shaw (108 combined receptions in 2013), but there's no shortage of talent in Tallahassee. Rashad Greene led the team in catches (76) and receiving yards last year (1,128) and recorded a season-high 147 yards against Auburn in the BCS title game. Outside of Greene, the positions in the Noles' receiving corps will be up for grabs. Seniors Christian Green and Jared Haggins will be pushed for time by Jesus Wilson, Isaiah Jones and talented incoming freshmen Ermon Lane and Travis Rudolph. Tight end Nick O'Leary is an *Athlon Sports* first-team preseason All-American for 2014.

5. ARIZONA Six of Arizona's top eight receivers are back in 2014, and this unit regains the services of Austin Hill, who missed all of the 2013 season due to injury. Hill was an All-Pac-12 selection in 2012 after catching 81 passes for 1,364 yards and 11 scores. Nate Phillips and Samajie Grant return after combining for 98 catches as freshmen last year. Transfers Davonte' Neal and Cayleb Jones will push for playing time, while Trey Griffey, David Richards and Garic Wharton are also in the mix.

6. Maryland 7. Auburn 8. Texas A&M 9. USC 10. Louisville 11. Miami
12. North Carolina 13. Stanford 14. Kansas State 15. Clemson 16. Ole Miss
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TOP OL UNITS

1. FLORIDA STATE

Five senior starters anchor Florida State's offensive line, headlined by tackle Cameron Erving and guards Tre' Jackson and **Josue Matias**. Erving — a converted defensive tackle — has made 28 consecutive starts and is a first-team *Athlon Sports* preseason All-American for 2014. Jackson and Matias have combined for 57 career starts, and both were All-ACC selections last year. Bobby Hart has made vast improvement at right tackle over the last two years, while Austin Barron is set to replace Bryan Stork at center. Depth is a concern, but seven incoming freshmen should help this unit's overall numbers for 2014.

2. AUBURN
The Tigers lose standout left tackle Greg Robinson, but four returning starters ensure that this unit will remain among the best in the nation. Center Reese Dismukes has 37 career starts and is a second-team *Athlon Sports* preseason All-American for 2014. The Tigers boast one of the nation's top combinations at guard with sophomore Alex Kozan and Chad Slade. Right tackle Avery Young was a top-100 recruit who was slowed early in his career by injury. However, the sophomore should be an asset on the right side of the line in 2014. Shon Coleman and Patrick Miller are vying to replace Robinson at left tackle, with Coleman owning a slight edge going into preseason practice.

3. TEXAS A&M For the second consecutive season, the Aggies must replace a first-round NFL Draft pick at tackle, yet there's little concern in College Station. Cedric Ogbuehi has made 30 career starts and will switch from right tackle to replace Jake Matthews on the left side. Sophomore Germain Ifedi will slide from guard to right tackle, and junior Joseph Cheek is expected to replace Ifedi at right guard. Mike Matthews is one of the SEC's top centers, while senior Jarvis Harrison has made 31 starts over the last three years. Junior college recruits Jermaine Eluemunor and Avery Gennesy provide depth.

4. LSU With uncertainty at quarterback, LSU plans to lean heavily on its offensive line and rushing attack in 2014. Four starters are back from last year's group that helped the Tigers average five yards per carry. Left tackle La'El Collins is an *Athlon Sports* third-team preseason All-American for 2014, with sophomore Jerald Hawkins expected to start on the right side. Junior Vadal Alexander and senior Hoko Fanaika are steady performers at guard, with senior Elliott Porter at center. Sophomore Ethan Pocic is a valuable swingman.

5. SOUTH CAROLINA This should be the best offensive line of Steve Spurrier's tenure at South Carolina. Mammoth left tackle Corey Robinson (6'8", 348 pounds) is a rising star, while junior Brandon Shell has made 22 starts over the last two years. Guard A.J. Cann is this unit's top player and is an *Athlon Sports* first-team preseason All-American for 2014. Junior Mike Matulis missed 2013 due to a shoulder injury and is expected to start at right guard, with sophomore Cody Waldrop back at center. This line helped South Carolina's rushing attack average 189.8 yards per game in SEC play last year.

6. Stanford 7. Alabama 8. Oklahoma 9. Wisconsin 10. Iowa 11. Oregon 12. Notre Dame 13. Arizona 14. Kansas State 15. Miami 16. Washington 17. Baylor 18. Indiana 19. Michigan State 20. Ohio State 21. Clemson 22. UCLA 23. Texas 24. Duke 25. Ole Miss

Matias: Mark Langello; Spence: Tom Lynn

TOP DL UNITS

2. ALABAMA To counter spread offenses, coach Nick Saban and coordinator Kirby Smart wanted to improve the speed and versatility of this unit. The Crimson Tide have accomplished that goal through recruiting over the last few years, as A'Shawn Robinson was one of the top freshmen in the nation in 2013, recording 5.5 sacks and eight tackles for a loss. He is joined at end by junior college recruits Jarran Reed and D.J. Pettway, while 310-pound tackle Brandon Ivory anchors the interior. Alabama allowed only eight rushing scores and held opponents to 106.2 rushing yards per game last year. Five-star freshman Da'Shawn Hand should find a role in the rotation.

3. MICHIGAN STATE The Spartans dominated the line of scrimmage last year, finishing second nationally against the run and recording 32 sacks in 14 games. Most of last season's group returns for coordinator Pat Narduzzi, starting with Shilique Calhoun at end. The junior recorded 7.5 sacks and 14 tackles for a loss last year. Senior Marcus Rush and redshirt freshman Demetrius Cooper join Calhoun as top contributors at end. The interior has to be retooled due to the loss of both Micajah Reynolds and Tyler Hoover. However, the coaching staff has confidence in Joel Heath and Damon Knox to pick up where last year's tackles left off.

4. CLEMSON With 12 key contributors returning from last season, the Tigers have one of the deepest groups of linemen in the nation. Clemson needs to be tougher against the run after allowing 155.7 yards per game last year, but the talent is certainly in place to improve. End Vic Beasley recorded 23 tackles for a loss and 13 sacks last year and is an *Athlon Sports* first-team preseason All-American for 2014. Senior Corey Crawford is expected to start on the other side, but sophomore Shaq Lawson is a name to remember. The Tigers have six reliable options on the interior, including Grady Jarrett, DeShawn Williams and Josh Watson.

5. USC New coordinator Justin Wilcox inherits a defensive line that returns only one starter, but the Trojans aren't short on linemen with experience. End Leonard Williams recorded six sacks and 13.5 tackles for a loss last year and should thrive in Wilcox's defense. Junior Antwaun Woods had a standout spring and is expected to handle the nose tackle position. His emergence as a force is critical for the 3-4 scheme. Texas Tech transfer Delvon Simmons will start opposite Williams at end, with Greg Townsend, Kenny Bigelow and junior college transfer Claude Pelon providing depth.

6. Oklahoma 7. Texas 8. TCU 9. Florida State
10. UCLA 11. Ole Miss 12. Florida 13. Baylor
14. LSU 15. Virginia Tech 16. Washington
17. Auburn 18. Missouri 19. Georgia 20. Stanford
21. Kansas State 22. Mississippi State
23. Nebraska 24. Iowa 25. Notre Dame

1. OHIO STATE

The entire two-deep returns for new position coach Larry Johnson Sr., who inherits a group that played a key role in the Buckeyes' No. 9 national ranking against the run last year. **Noah Spence** and Joey Bosa combined for 15.5 sacks last year and might be the nation's best combination at end. Seniors Steve Miller and Rashad Frazier provide depth. Michael Bennett and Adolphus Washington anchor the interior, with both players expected to be in the mix for All-Big Ten honors. This unit doesn't have a weak spot, possessing depth, speed-rushers off the edge, and quality run-stuffers in the middle.

TOP LB UNITS

1. GEORGIA

The hiring of Jeremy Pruitt as the new defensive coordinator should pay big dividends for Georgia's defense. The Bulldogs underachieved on defense last year, but Pruitt's arrival, combined with the return of 10 starters, should ensure a quick turnaround. The linebacking corps features four starters capable of earning All-SEC honors. **Ramik Wilson** led the league with 133 tackles last year and is an *Athlon Sports* first-team preseason All-American for 2014. Amarlo Herrera ranked second on the team with 112 stops and joins Wilson on the interior. The outside linebacker spots will go to Jordan Jenkins and Leonard Floyd. Both players are capable of producing 10 sacks in 2014.

2. ALABAMA The linebacking corps is the heartbeat of Alabama's defense, and much like every position in Tuscaloosa, the unit is stacked with plenty of elite recruits ready to step into the spotlight. Trey DePriest headlines this corps after recording 65 tackles and two forced fumbles in 2013. Former five-star recruit Reuben Foster and Reggie Ragland will join DePriest as key cogs on the interior. The Crimson Tide's pass rush needs more production from the outside linebackers, and Xzavier Dickson and Denzel Devall hope to build off of solid 2013 seasons. Depth is plentiful, and help is on the way in form of incoming freshmen Rashaan Evans, Christian Miller and Ronnie Clark.

3. UCLA Anthony Barr and Jordan Zumwalt are gone, but the linebacking corps could be one of UCLA's deepest positions. Myles Jack had a breakout freshman season in 2013, recording 75 tackles and two interceptions. Jack's athleticism and explosiveness should ease the loss of Barr at the outside rush position. Senior Eric Kendricks has had back-to-back seasons with at least 100 tackles and is an *Athlon Sports* third-team preseason All-American for 2014. Sophomore Isaako Savaiinaea is expected to replace Zumwalt on the inside. There's youth behind the starters, but also a lot of talent. Four-star recruits Kenny Young and Zach Whitley are expected to contribute immediately.

4. OKLAHOMA The Sooners' transition to a 3-4 scheme has been seamless — and highly successful. Oklahoma held offenses to just 4.1 yards per carry last season, and the front seven returns nearly intact for 2014. The status of Frank Shannon is uncertain due to an off-the-field incident, but Dominique Alexander returns after earning Big 12 Defensive Freshman of the Year honors, and Eric Striker is among the best in the nation at his position. Junior college recruit Devante Bond compares favorably to Striker, giving the Sooners two dangerous pass-rushers on the outside.

5. STANFORD Trent Murphy and Shayne Skov will be tough to replace, but the Cardinal have recruited well at this position in recent years. Senior A.J. Tarpley takes over as the leader for this unit and should be one of the top linebackers in the Pac-12 after recording 93 stops last year. Junior Blake Martinez will join Tarpley at inside linebacker, with Kevin Anderson and James Vaughters on the outside. Vaughters and Anderson combined for 5.5 sacks last season and need to triple that number in 2013 to replace Murphy's pass-rush production. Redshirt freshman Peter Kalambayi and sophomore Noor Davis are two names to watch.

6. Ole Miss 7. Michigan 8. Washington
9. Florida State 10. USC 11. Florida 12. Tennessee
13. South Carolina 14. Oregon 15. Clemson
16. Ohio State 17. Texas 18. Nebraska
19. Oregon State 20. Maryland 21. Auburn
22. Miami 23. Utah State 24. Notre Dame
25. Mississippi State

R. Wilson: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports; P. Wilson: Paul Connors

TOP DB UNITS

2. VIRGINIA TECH Cornerbacks Kendall Fuller and Brandon Facyson anchor the Virginia Tech secondary after standout freshman seasons. Fuller was a second-team All-ACC selection after recording six interceptions, while Facyson earned third-team honors. More will be expected of both players with the departure of Kyle Fuller (Kendall's brother) and Antone Exum. The safety spots are in good hands with proven seniors Kyshoen Jarrett and Detrick Bonner. Opposing quarterbacks completed only 48.2 percent of their passes against the Hokies last year and were intercepted 19 times.

3. LSU It isn't easy to perform at a high level as a true freshman in the SEC, but that's exactly the type of performance LSU got from Rashard Robinson and Tre'Davious White last year. White finished with seven pass breakups and 55 tackles, while Robinson played more snaps as the season progressed and recorded one interception. With an offseason to learn under coordinator John Chavis, White and Robinson should be one of the top cornerback tandems in the nation. Juniors Jalen Mills and Jalen Collins give LSU two quality reserves at cornerback. Ronald Martin and Corey Thompson have the edge at safety, but true freshmen Ed Paris Jr. and Jamal Adams will push the veterans for time in the fall.

4. TCU The Horned Frogs have to replace cornerback Jason Verrett, but little drop-off is expected from the pass defense. Despite playing in the pass-first Big 12, TCU allowed only 10 touchdown passes in conference play in 2013. Kevin White earned honorable mention All-Big 12 honors last season and is expected to slide into the top corner role for coach Gary Patterson. Redshirt freshman Ranthony Texada had a solid spring and is set to start opposite of White. The strength of the secondary is at safety, where three potential All-Big 12 candidates return, including Sam Carter (five interceptions in 2013).

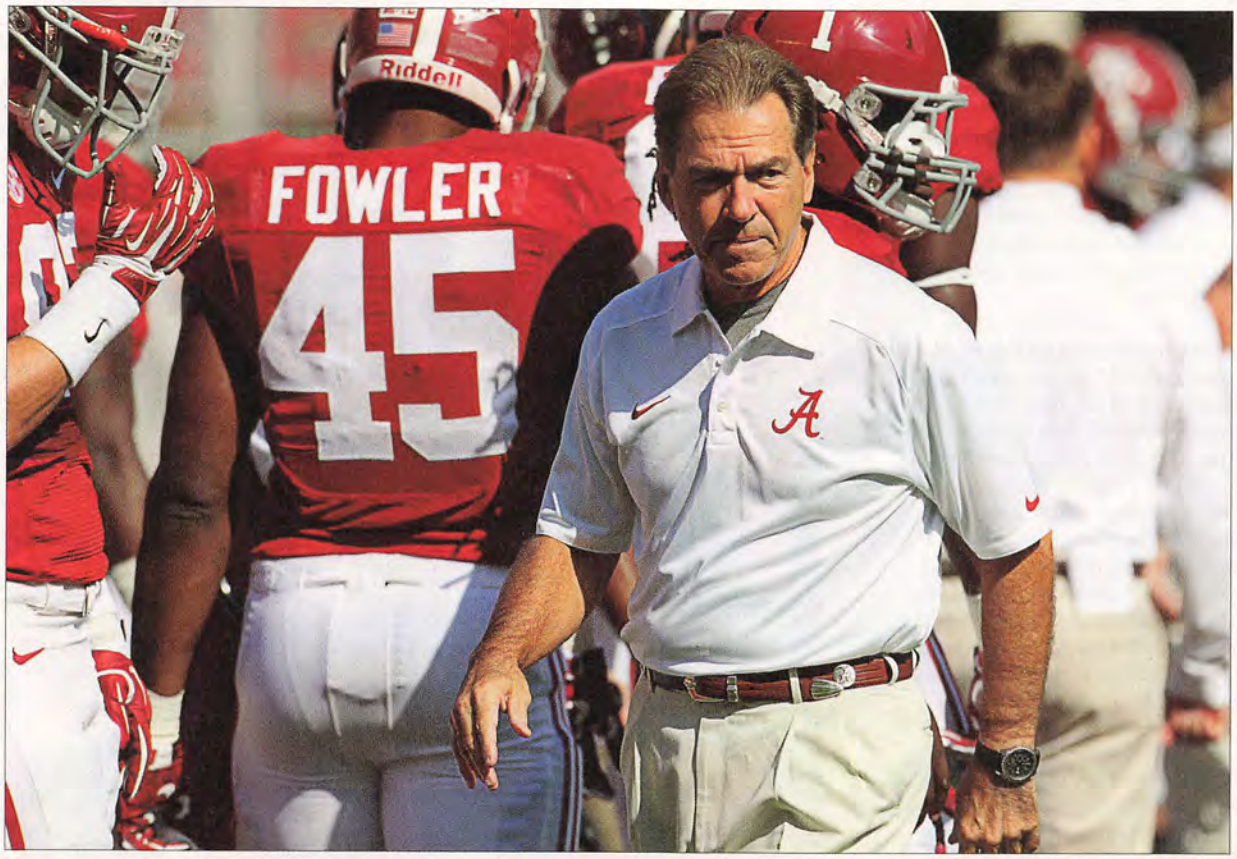
5. OLE MISS Hugh Freeze has quietly assembled one of the SEC's top defensive backfields over the last three years. The Rebels allowed only five touchdown passes in SEC play last season and return all five starters for 2014. Mike Hilton and Senquez Golson are steady at corner, but both players will be pushed for snaps by sophomore Derrick Jones and junior college recruit Tee Shepard. Cody Prewitt recorded six interceptions last year and is one of the SEC's top safeties. Junior Trae Elston returns at strong safety, and Tony Conner will start at the hybrid linebacker/safety role. Freshman C.J. Hampton will be tough to keep on the sidelines.

6. UCLA 7. Florida 8. Michigan State 9. USC
10. Alabama 11. Stanford 12. Oregon
13. Notre Dame 14. Texas 15. Ohio State
16. Oklahoma 17. Michigan 18. Miami 19. FAU
20. Clemson 21. Georgia 22. Virginia
23. Kansas State 24. Boise State 25. Oregon State

1. FLORIDA STATE

Despite the departure of cornerback Lamarcus Joyner and safety Terrence Brooks, Florida State's secondary should be the best in the nation. Thanks to elite recruiting, the cupboard is overflowing with talent for new coordinator Charles Kelly. Ronald Darby and **P.J. Williams** are shutdown cornerbacks, with senior Nick Waisome, junior Keelin Smith and sophomore Marquez White also expected to contribute. Sophomore safety Jalen Ramsey is already among the nation's best defensive backs, while Tyler Hunter rejoins the starting lineup after missing nearly all of last season with a neck injury. The Seminoles allowed only 14 touchdown passes in 2013 and led the nation with 26 interceptions.

TOP COACHING STAFFS



1. ALABAMA

Since going 7–6 in his first season in Tuscaloosa, **Nick Saban** is 72–9 and has claimed three out of the last five national championships. Alabama has six consecutive top–10 finishes and has not lost more than one SEC regular-season game in five out of the last six years. Saban is a key architect of the defense, but Kirby Smart is regarded as one of the top coordinators in the nation and is ready to be a head coach at a major-conference program. Saban's decision to hire Lane Kiffin as offensive coordinator was one of the most polarizing coaching moves of the offseason. While Kiffin struggled at USC, he should thrive as a play–caller and recruiter for Alabama.

2. OHIO STATE Urban Meyer has been successful at all four of his head-coaching stops, and the Buckeyes are off to a 24–2 start under his direction. Meyer is one of the best head coaches in the nation, but he also has plenty of help. Offensive coordinator Tom Herman has been instrumental in the development of quarterback Braxton Miller, while offensive line coach Ed Warinner is highly regarded. Meyer's defensive staff was upgraded in the offseason with the additions of Larry Johnson Sr. and Chris Ash. Cornerbacks coach Kerry Coombs is a key recruiter in the state of Ohio.

3. OKLAHOMA With a convincing win over Alabama in the Sugar Bowl, it's safe to say that Big Game Bob is back. Bob Stoops is 160–39 in 15 years with the Sooners and has never finished lower than third in the Big 12. Stoops has upgraded his staff in recent seasons, adding Jerry Montgomery to coach the defensive line and Bill Bedenbaugh to tutor the offensive linemen. The addition of Mike Stoops (Bob's brother) before the 2012 season made a positive impact on Oklahoma's defense, which included a shift to a 3–4 scheme. Josh Heupel and Jay Norvell have shared the offensive coordinator title since 2011.

4. SOUTH CAROLINA Steve Spurrier was known for his high-scoring offenses at Florida, but he has altered his plan of attack in Columbia. After winning 35 games through his first five years in Columbia, Spurrier has recorded 42 victories over the last four. An emphasis on defense and the rushing attack has transformed the Gamecocks into a power in the SEC East. Spurrier calls the plays on offense, with Shawn Elliott (offensive line) and G.A. Mangus (quarterbacks) serving as top assistants. Lorenzo Ward is one of the SEC's top defensive coordinators.

5. BAYLOR Under Art Briles' watch, Baylor has joined the Big 12 elite. The Bears have 29 wins over the last three years and are coming off their first outright conference title since 1980. Briles is one of the nation's top offensive minds, but he also has a top-flight staff. Offensive coordinator Philip Montgomery and line coach Randy Clements are both highly regarded. Baylor's defense has made significant strides over the last few years, largely thanks to the addition of coordinator Phil Bennett. A key component in Baylor's recent success has been recruiting. Over the last three years, the Bears have averaged a No. 27 national ranking in recruiting — a significant improvement for a program that averaged a No. 42 finish in FBS recruiting from 2010–11.

6. Michigan State 7. Florida State 8. Auburn 9. Penn State 10. Georgia 11. Kansas State 12. LSU 13. Notre Dame 14. Stanford 15. Clemson 16. Louisville 17. Arizona State 18. Missouri 19. Washington 20. Oklahoma State 21. Texas A&M 22. UCLA 23. Virginia Tech 24. USC 25. TCU

Tim Clark/Athlon Sports

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2014 PRESEASON

ALL-AMERICA TEAM

FIRST TEAM

OFFENSE

QB	JAMEIS WINSTON	6-4/235/SO.	FLORIDA STATE
RB	MELVIN GORDON	6-1/207/JR.	WISCONSIN
RB	TODD GURLEY	6-1/232/JR.	GEORGIA
WR	NELSON AGHOLOR	6-0/185/JR.	USC
WR	AMARI COOPER	6-1/204/JR.	ALABAMA
TE	NICK O'LEARY	6-3/244/SR.	FLORIDA STATE
C	HRONISS GRASU	6-3/297/SR.	OREGON
G	A.J. CANN	6-4/318/SR.	SOUTH CAROLINA
G	TRE' JACKSON	6-4/339/SR.	FLORIDA STATE
T	CAMERON ERVING	6-6/302/SR.	FLORIDA STATE
T	ANDRUS PEAT	6-7/312/JR.	STANFORD
AP	TYLER LOCKETT	5-11/175/SR.	KANSAS STATE

JAMEIS WINSTON, FLORIDA STATE

DEFENSE

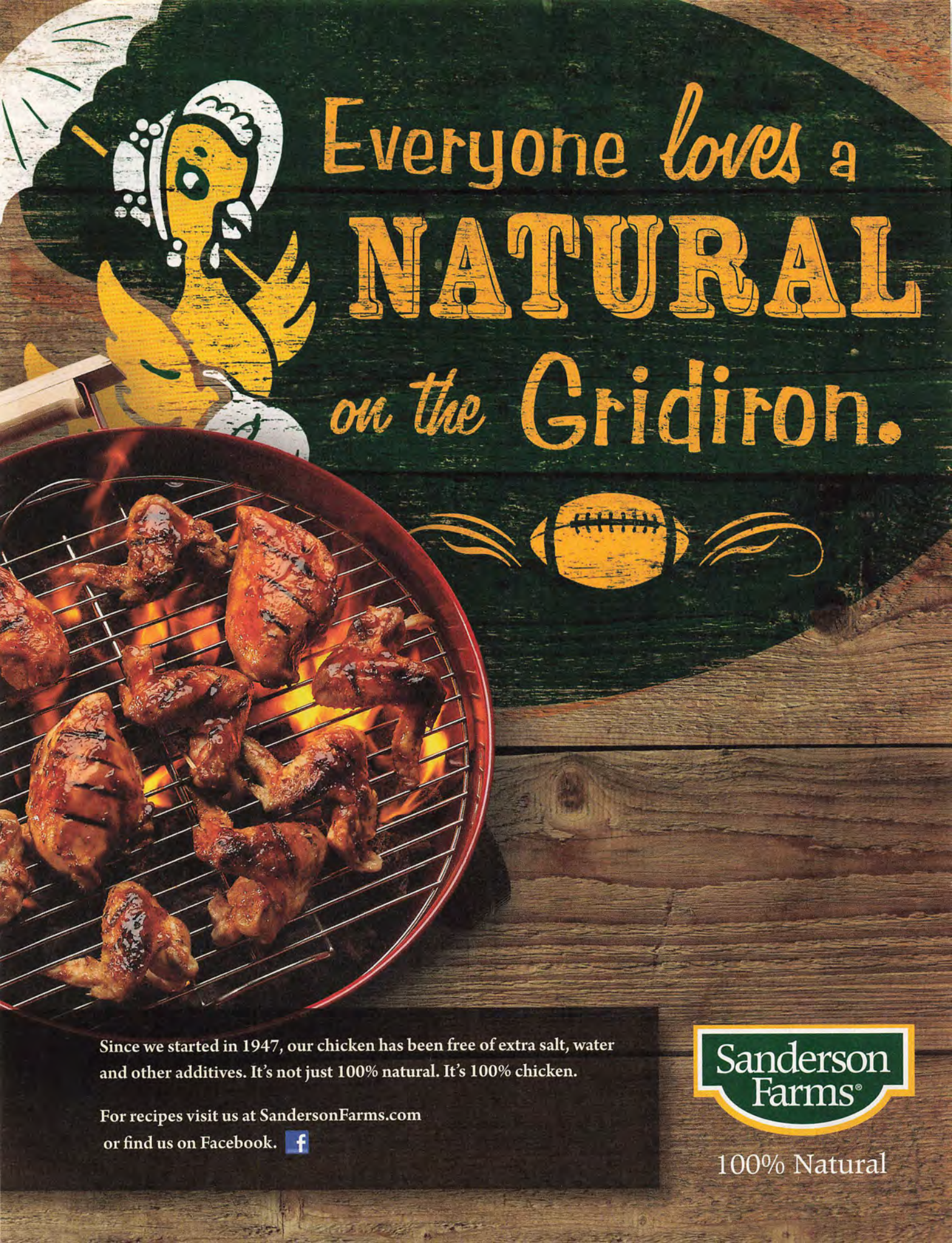
DE	VIC BEASLEY	6-2/235/SR.	CLEMSON
DE	LEONARD WILLIAMS	6-5/290/JR.	USC
DT	MICHAEL BENNETT	6-2/288/SR.	OHIO STATE
DT	CHRIS JONES	6-5/300/SR.	MISSISSIPPI STATE
LB	MYLES JACK	6-1/230/SO.	UCLA
LB	SHAQ THOMPSON	6-2/231/JR.	WASHINGTON
LB	RAMIK WILSON	6-2/232/SR.	GEORGIA
CB	IFO EKPRE-OLOMU	5-10/195/SR.	OREGON
CB	VERNON HARGREAVES	5-11/192/SO.	FLORIDA
S	LANDON COLLINS	6-0/215/JR.	ALABAMA
S	JALEN RAMSEY	6-1/198/SO.	FLORIDA STATE

MYLES JACK, UCLA

SPECIALISTS

K	ROBERTO AGUAYO	6-1/209/SO.	FLORIDA STATE
P	MIKE SADLER	6-0/170/SR.	MICHIGAN STATE
KR	TY MONTGOMERY	6-2/215/SR.	STANFORD
PR	RYAN SWITZER	5-10/175/SO.	NORTH CAROLINA

Winston: Peter Brouillet; Jack: Tim Umphrey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2014 PRESEASON

ALL-AMERICA TEAM

SECOND TEAM

OFFENSE

QB	MARCUS MARIOTA	6-4/215/JR.	OREGON
RB	AMEER ABDULLAH	5-9/195/SR.	NEBRASKA
RB	T.J. YELDON	6-2/221/JR.	ALABAMA
WR	ANTWAN GOODLEY	5-10/225/SR.	BAYLOR
WR	RASHAD GREENE	6-0/178/SR.	FLORIDA STATE
TE	O.J. HOWARD	6-6/240/SO.	ALABAMA
C	REESE DISMUKES	6-3/295/SR.	AUBURN
G	JOSUE MATIAS	6-6/331/SR.	FLORIDA STATE
G	LAKEN TOMLINSON	6-3/320/SR.	DUKE
T	CEDRIC OGBUEHI	6-5/300/SR.	TEXAS A&M
T	BRANDON SCHERFF	6-5/320/SR.	IOWA
AP	STEFON DIGGS	6-0/195/JR.	MARYLAND

KENDALL FULLER, VIRGINIA TECH

DEFENSE

DE	SHILIQUE CALHOUN	6-4/257/JR.	MICHIGAN STATE
DE	RANDY GREGORY	6-6/245/JR.	NEBRASKA
DT	LUTHER MADDY	6-1/291/SR.	VIRGINIA TECH
DT	ROBERT NKEMDICHE	6-4/277/SO.	OLE MISS
LB	TREY DEPRIEST	6-2/245/SR.	ALABAMA
LB	A.J. JOHNSON	6-2/242/SR.	TENNESSEE
LB	ERIC STRIKER	6-0/220/JR.	OKLAHOMA
CB	QUANDRE DIGGS	5-10/204/SR.	TEXAS
CB	KENDALL FULLER	5-11/195/SO.	VIRGINIA TECH
S	ANTHONY HARRIS	6-1/190/SR.	VIRGINIA
S	CODY PREWITT	6-2/212/SR.	OLE MISS

SPECIALISTS

K	MARSHALL MORGAN	6-3/200/JR.	GEORGIA
P	DREW KASER	6-3/205/JR.	TEXAS A&M
KR	CARLOS WIGGINS	5-8/157/JR.	NEW MEXICO
PR	JAMISON CROWDER	5-9/175/SR.	DUKE

THIRD TEAM

OFFENSE

QB	BRAXTON MILLER	6-2/215/SR.	OHIO STATE
RB	MIKE DAVIS	5-9/216/JR.	SOUTH CAROLINA
RB	DUKE JOHNSON	5-9/206/JR.	MIAMI
WR	TYLER BOYD	6-2/185/SO.	PITTSBURGH
WR	LAQUON TREADWELL	6-2/224/SO.	OLE MISS
TE	JEFF HEUERMAN	6-5/255/SR.	OHIO STATE
C	B.J. FINNEY	6-4/303/SR.	KANSAS STATE
G	ALEX KOZAN	6-4/300/SO.	AUBURN
G	QUINTON SPAIN	6-5/342/SR.	WEST VIRGINIA
T	LA'EL COLLINS	6-5/315/SR.	LSU
T	LAREMY TUNSIL	6-5/315/SO.	OLE MISS
AP	DERRICK HENRY	6-3/241/SO.	ALABAMA

MIKE DAVIS, SOUTH CAROLINA

DEFENSE

DE	MARIO EDWARDS	6-3/294/JR.	FLORIDA STATE
DE	RYAN MUELLER	6-2/245/SR.	KANSAS STATE
DT	MALCOM BROWN	6-4/320/JR.	TEXAS
DT	DANNY SHELTON	6-2/332/SR.	WASHINGTON
LB	ERIC KENDRICKS	6-0/230/SR.	UCLA
LB	HAYES PULLARD	6-1/230/SR.	USC
LB	JAYLON SMITH	6-2/230/SO.	NOTRE DAME
CB	TRE'DAVIOUS WHITE	5-11/177/SO.	LSU
CB	P.J. WILLIAMS	6-0/196/JR.	FLORIDA STATE
S	KURTIS DRUMMOND	6-1/200/SR.	MICHIGAN STATE
S	DERRON SMITH	5-11/200/SR.	FRESNO STATE

SPECIALISTS

K	MARVIN KLOSS	6-0/196/SR.	SOUTH FLORIDA
P	CAMERON JOHNSTON	6-0/195/SO.	OHIO STATE
KR	KERMIT WHITFIELD	5-7/184/SO.	FLORIDA STATE
PR	NELSON AGHOLOR	6-0/185/JR.	USC

Margaret Bowles

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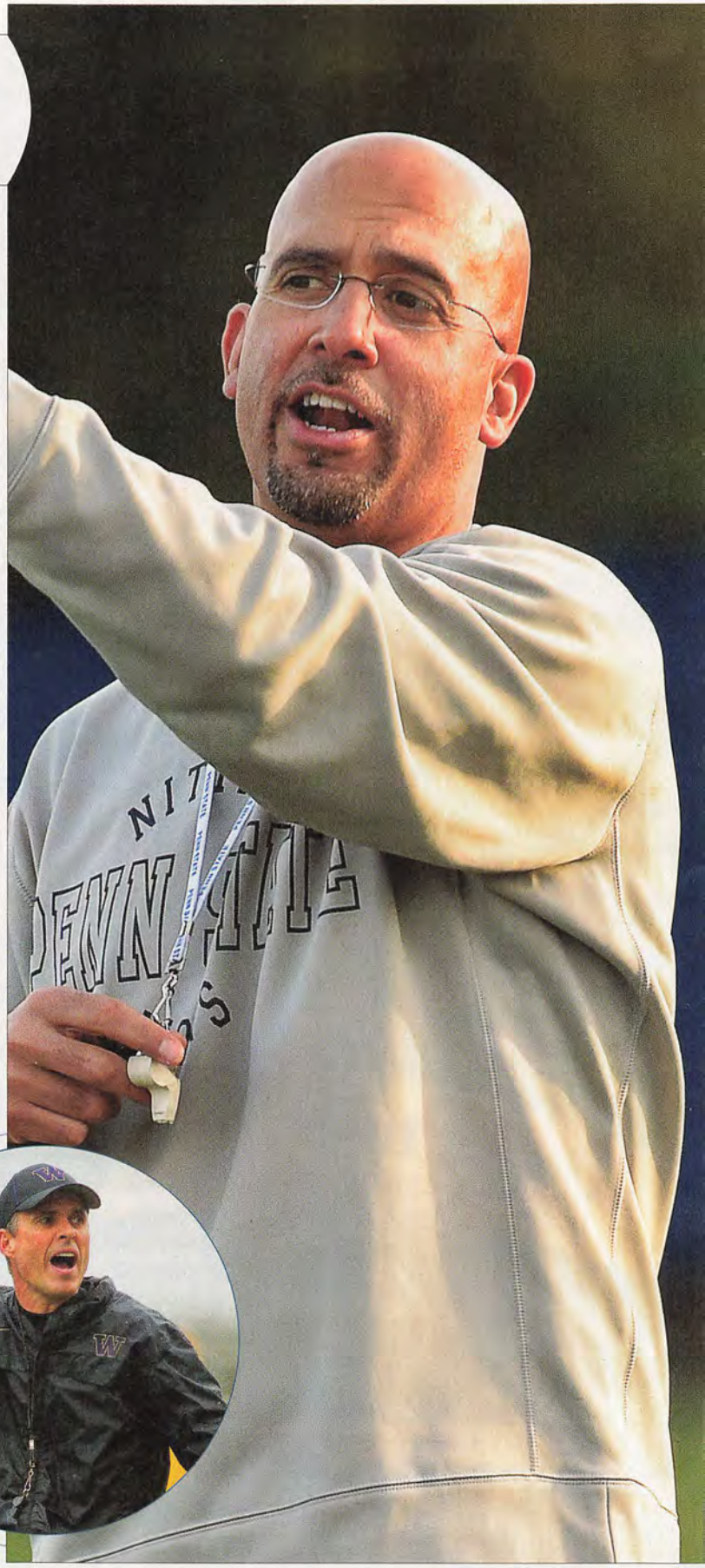
COACHING CAROUSEL

20 PROGRAMS CHANGED HANDS IN A RELATIVELY QUIET OFFSEASON. HERE'S HOW ATHLON SPORTS RANKS THE NEW HIRES: BY MITCH LIGHT



1. JAMES FRANKLIN Penn State

PREVIOUS JOB: HEAD COACH, VANDERBILT

PROS: Franklin did what most thought was impossible: Win at Vanderbilt. As a first-time head coach, Franklin guided the Commodores to a 24–15 overall mark and an 11–13 record in the SEC, highlighted by back-to-back nine-win seasons. He is a Pennsylvania native with a passion for recruiting. Franklin built an outstanding coaching staff at Vanderbilt, and all but two of his assistants joined him at Penn State.

CONS: Franklin will have to adjust to dealing with a much larger media contingent at Penn State. He must have thick skin if and when things do not go well — something that rarely happened during his time at Vanderbilt.

FINAL ANALYSIS: Franklin is an ideal fit at Penn State, where he can have the best of both worlds. He has the huge fan base he has always craved, but due to the current state of the program — still digging out from the Jerry Sandusky affair — he won't be faced with immediate pressure to win big. It might take a few years, but Franklin will win at a very high level during his time in Happy Valley. **GRADE: A**

2. CHRIS PETERSEN Washington

PREVIOUS JOB: HEAD COACH, BOISE STATE

PROS: Petersen has a 92–12 overall record and a 57–6 mark in league games during his eight years as a head coach, all at Boise State. And the Broncos didn't just beat up the underbelly of the WAC and Mountain West during his stay; Boise went 9–4 against teams from BCS conferences, highlighted by the Fiesta Bowl win over Oklahoma in January 2007 and season-opening wins over Virginia Tech (2010) and Georgia (2011).

CONS: Petersen will have to adjust to the off-the-field responsibilities that come with being the head coach at a school like Washington. The media attention — something Petersen does not enjoy — will be far more intense in Seattle than it was in Boise.

FINAL ANALYSIS: After years of turning down inquiries from other programs, Petersen decided that Washington was the right fit at the right time. There will be some new challenges for Petersen, who will have to face the week-in, week-out grind of a major conference for the first time in his career. But it will be a major surprise if he is not successful during his stay at Washington. **GRADE: A**

3. DINO BABERS Bowling Green

PREVIOUS JOB: HEAD COACH, EASTERN ILLINOIS

PROS: Babers did a tremendous job in two seasons as the head coach at Eastern Illinois, leading the Panthers — who won a total of four games in the two years prior to his arrival — to an overall mark of 19–7 and a 14–1 record in the OVC. Last year, EIU led the FCS ranks in both total offense (589.5 ypg) and scoring offense (48.2 ppg) and reached the quarterfinals of the FCS playoffs. He worked under the highly respected Art Briles at Baylor from 2008-11.

CONS: At Bowling Green, Babers will not have the luxury of quarterback Jimmy Garopollo, who was EIU's first Walter Payton Award winner since Tony Romo.

FINAL ANALYSIS: This could be the best hire by any school in the MAC since Bowling Green tabbed Urban Meyer in 2001. Babers engineered a quick turnaround in his only previous stop as a head coach, and he plays an entertaining style that will attract quality players to Bowling Green. **GRADE: A**

4. CRAIG BOHL Wyoming

PREVIOUS JOB: HEAD COACH, NORTH DAKOTA STATE

PROS: Bohl went 104–32 in 11 years as the head coach at North Dakota State, and capped his time in Fargo by winning three straight FCS national championships. He also has 18 years of experience as an assistant in the FBS ranks, including three as the defensive coordinator at Nebraska, his alma mater.

CONS: Bohl will be 56 when the 2014 season starts; only Mark Whipple at UMass is older (57) among first-year head coaches.

FINAL ANALYSIS: This was a terrific hire by a Wyoming program that has struggled to sustain success. Bohl is a proven winner. Yes, his success has come in the FCS ranks, but a 43–2 record over a three-stretch is impressive at any level of football. Wyoming will become relevant in the Mountain West in the near future. **GRADE: A-**

5. DEREK MASON Vanderbilt

PREVIOUS JOB: DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR, STANFORD

PROS: Mason has been one of the most respected coordinators in the nation over the past several years. He gained national notoriety for Stanford's success against Oregon's high-powered spread attack. In the last two seasons, Oregon averaged 358.5 yards and 17.0 points against Stanford and 567.3 yards and 50.1 points against all other competition.

CONS: Mason recruited in the Southeast while at Stanford, but he has never coached at a school in the SEC footprint, and only one member of his staff — holdover Charles Bankins — has ever served on an SEC staff.

FINAL ANALYSIS: Vanderbilt identified Mason as its first choice to replace James Franklin. And Mason — who enjoyed success at an academically oriented school in a major conference — identified Vanderbilt as an ideal opportunity for him as a head coach. It sounds like a perfect marriage. Now, it's time for Mason to prove he can make the transition from successful coordinator to successful program CEO. **GRADE: A-**

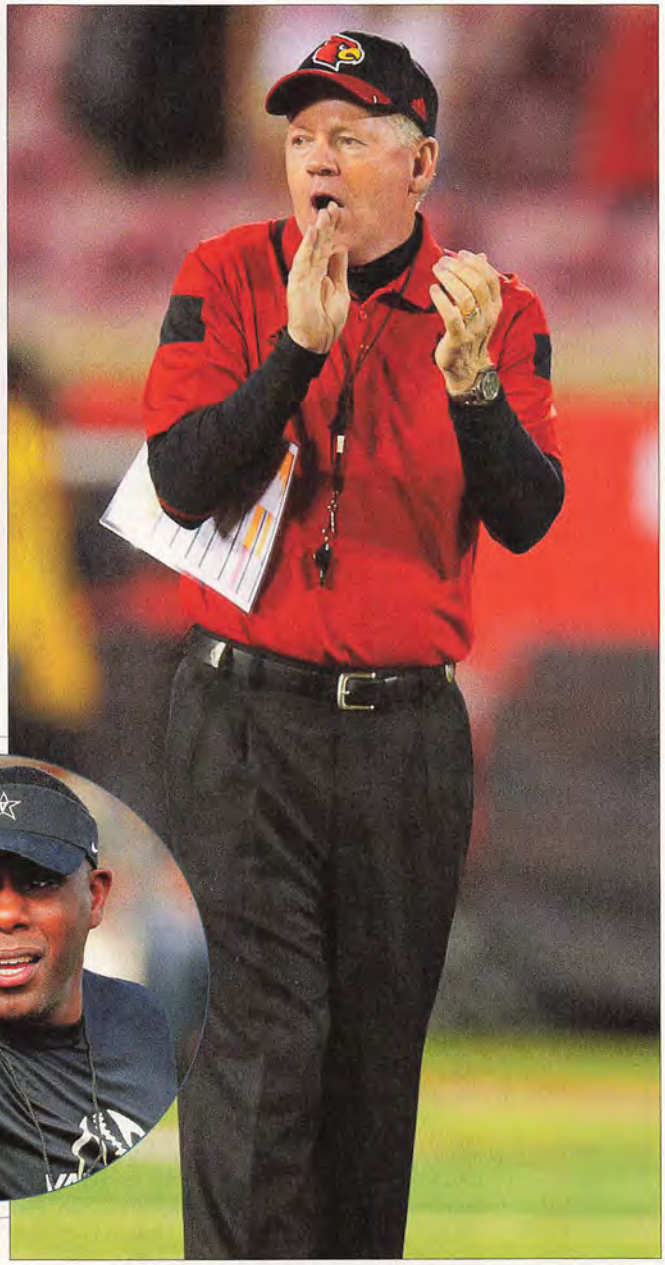
6. BOBBY PETRINO Louisville

PREVIOUS JOB: HEAD COACH, WESTERN KENTUCKY

PROS: Petrino is a proven winner at the collegiate level, having gone 41–9 in four seasons at Louisville, 34–17 in four seasons at Arkansas and 8–4 in one season at Western Kentucky. Four of his nine teams have led their respective leagues in total offense; three other teams ranked second. He also knows the Louisville program well.

CONS: Petrino, who has had messy divorces at virtually every stop, was considered too toxic to get a sniff at schools like Tennessee, Kentucky and Auburn two years ago.

FINAL ANALYSIS: Petrino is one of the most polarizing coaches in all of football, and the school took a bit of a PR hit by bringing him back. But he wins games, and he does so in an entertaining fashion. There is some risk with this move, but it's a risk that Louisville had to take as it moves to the ACC in 2014. **GRADE: A-**



Franklin: Penn State SID; Petersen: UW SID; Petrino: Louisville SID, Mason: Vanderbilt SID

7. CHARLIE STRONG Texas

PREVIOUS JOB: HEAD COACH, LOUISVILLE

PROS: Strong engineered a quick turnaround at Louisville, winning seven games in each of his first two seasons and then 23 games over his final two. His best work was done on the defensive end. The Cards ranked 65th in the nation in total defense in 2009 (the final season of the Steve Kragthorpe era), but quickly jumped to 14th in 2010 and then ranked 23rd, 23rd and first in his final three seasons, respectively. Strong also is regarded as one of the elite recruiters in the nation.

CONS: Strong does not enjoy dealing with the media or yucking it up with boosters — two things that are important for the head coach at Texas. Also, for all of his success at Louisville, he did not win an outright league title during his four seasons as the head coach.

FINAL ANALYSIS: This is an outstanding hire. Strong has proven to be one of the top coaches in college football, although his Louisville teams suffered some troubling losses, mostly at home. If Texas is going to compete for national championships — and that is always the goal in Austin — Strong must avoid the pitfalls that can sabotage a season. **GRADE: B+**

Texas SID

8. DAVE CLAWSON Wake Forest

PREVIOUS JOB: HEAD COACH, BOWLING GREEN

PROS: Clawson has enjoyed success in three stops as a head coach, most recently as the boss at Bowling Green. His background is on the offensive side of the ball, but his best teams at Bowling Green got it done on defense. The Falcons led the MAC in total defense in each of the last two seasons, and ranked 10th nationally in 2013 en route to the school's first league title since 1992.

CONS: Clawson's programs improved during his stops at Fordham, Richmond and Bowling Green, but his teams had a losing record in conference play six times in his 14 seasons as a head coach.

FINAL ANALYSIS: Tennessee fans will always cringe when they see Clawson's name — his one-year stint (in 2008) running the "Clawfence" in Knoxville did not go well — but the guy has proven to be a very good head coach who knows how to build a program. Sustaining success at Wake Forest will always be difficult — Jim Grobe's three-year run of 15–9 in the ACC might never be duplicated — but Clawson, given time, will have this program back as a bowl participant on a regular basis. **GRADE: B+**

9. JEFF MONKEN Army

PREVIOUS JOB: HEAD COACH, GEORGIA SOUTHERN

PROS: Monken enjoyed a successful four-year run at Georgia Southern, with a 38–16 overall record and a 22–8 mark in the Southern Conference. And he did so while running an option-based offensive attack — a scheme that has been employed by the service academies for decades. Monken worked under current Georgia Tech coach Paul Johnson during stints at Georgia Southern, Navy and Georgia Tech.

CONS: This might only matter to the most hardcore Army fans, but Monken spent six seasons as an assistant coach at Navy, the school's hated rival.

FINAL ANALYSIS: Monken is a great fit at Army. But the previous coach, Rich Ellerson, appeared to be the perfect fit — and he was fired after going 20–41 in five seasons. Army is one of the most difficult FBS jobs in the nation. The school has had only one winning season since 1996 and has not enjoyed sustained success since the 1960s. This will be a huge challenge for Monken and his staff. **GRADE: B+**

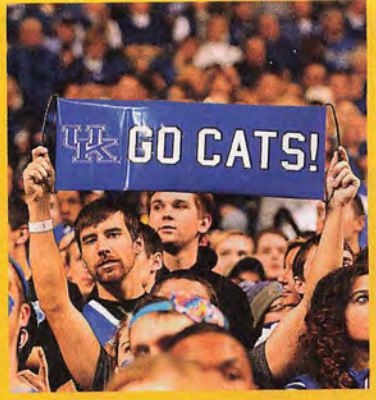
10. WILLIE FRITZ Georgia Southern

PREVIOUS JOB: HEAD COACH, SAM HOUSTON STATE

PROS: Fritz did a terrific job at Sam Houston, guiding the Bearkats to a 40–15 overall record and a 21–7 mark in the Southland in his four years as the school's head coach. Sam Houston, which averaged only five wins in the five years prior to Fritz's arrival, reached the FCS championship game in both 2011 and '12. He also coached for 13 years at Central Missouri (97–47) and for four years at Blinn (Texas) College (39–5–1).

CONS: Fritz ran a spread offense at Sam Houston, but he inherits a program that ran the triple-option under the previous regime.

FINAL ANALYSIS: This is a great hire for Georgia Southern, which is making the transition from the FCS ranks to the Sun Belt Conference in the FBS. It will be interesting to see what offense Fritz runs, but it is important to note that his final Sam Houston team ranked sixth nationally (FCS) in rushing. So while he didn't run the triple-option, his offense was predicated on running the ball. Fritz will have GSU competitive in the Sun Belt in the next several years. **GRADE: B+**



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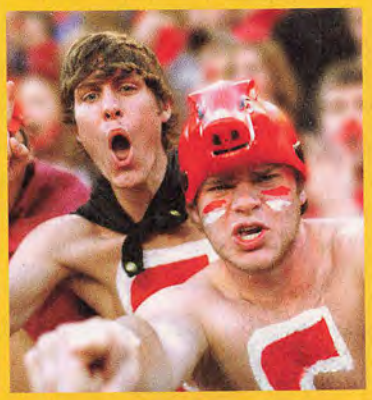

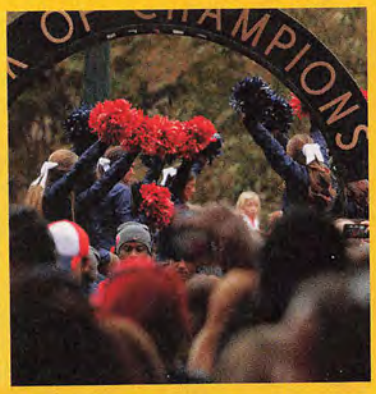

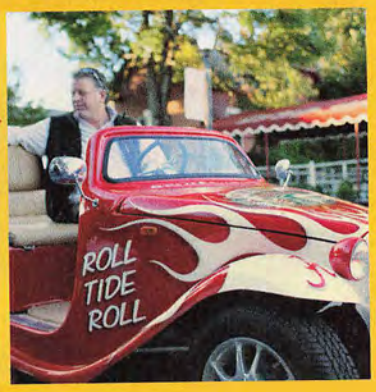

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11. CHARLIE PARTRIDGE Florida Atlantic

PREVIOUS JOB: DEFENSIVE LINE COACH, ARKANSAS

PROS: Partridge is native of South Florida who has carved out a reputation as a tremendous recruiter in the state during his time as an assistant at Pittsburgh, Wisconsin and Arkansas.

CONS: Other than a two-year stint as the defensive co-coordinator at Wisconsin (2011-12), Partridge has spent his entire career as a position coach.

FINAL ANALYSIS: Partridge is a noted recruiter who must now prove he can be the CEO of a program. FAU, with a new stadium and a fertile recruiting area, should be one of the top programs in the revamped — and weakened — Conference USA. Partridge will have an opportunity to compete for league titles during his stay in Boca Raton. **GRADE: B**

12. STEVE SARKISIAN USC

PREVIOUS JOB: HEAD COACH, WASHINGTON

PROS: Sarkisian is a former USC assistant who has five years of experience as a head coach in the Pac-12. Washington had suffered through five straight losing seasons and went winless in 2008, the year prior to his arrival. He went 6–7 in Year 1 and then enjoyed four straight winning seasons (overall and in league play). Sark is also an outstanding recruiter; his final four classes at Washington ranked in the top 25 nationally (with a high of 14th in '10) by the 247Sports Composite.

CONS: Sarkisian did an outstanding job making Washington relevant in the Pac-12, but he never won more than five games in the league and did not finish higher than third in the Pac-12 North in the three years after league expansion.

FINAL ANALYSIS: Here's the big question (and we won't know the answer for years): Is Sark an elite coach who will win at a high level now that he is at a premier job, or is he simply a good coach who will do well at USC but be unable to return the Trojans to a national championship level? If it's the former, we will have to give USC athletic director Pat Haden a ton of credit. If it's the latter, we will look back and wonder why USC didn't make a stronger play for James Franklin or Chris Petersen. **GRADE: B**

13. BRYAN HARSIN Boise State

PREVIOUS JOB: HEAD COACH, ARKANSAS STATE

PROS: Harsin is a Boise native who played quarterback for the Broncos in the late 1990s and served as an assistant at the school from 2001-10. Boise State ranked among the top three in the WAC in total offense in each of his five years as the offensive coordinator. Harsin has one year of experience as a head coach, and he is regarded as an outstanding recruiter.

CONS: Harsin's offenses haven't been overly productive the last three seasons: Texas ranked seventh in the 10-team Big 12 in total offense in 2011 and sixth in '12, and Arkansas State ranked fifth in the eight-team Sun Belt in total offense in '13.

FINAL ANALYSIS: As an alum and a former assistant with head-coaching experience, Harsin was the easy hire for the Boise State administration. Is he the right hire? That obviously remains to be seen, but it will be nearly impossible for him to replicate the success that Chris Petersen enjoyed in the past decade. **GRADE: B**

14. BLAKE ANDERSON Arkansas State

PREVIOUS JOB: OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR, NORTH CAROLINA

PROS: Anderson has been a play-caller for successful offenses at North Carolina (2012-13), Southern Miss (2010-11) and Louisiana-Lafayette (2007). He's young and energetic, and he's regarded as an outstanding recruiter.

CONS: None, other than his lack of head-coaching experience.

FINAL ANALYSIS: Anderson will be the fifth coach at Arkansas State in the last five seasons. The Red Wolves have prospered under the guidance of Hugh Freeze (2011), Gus Malzahn ('12) and Bryan Harsin ('13), but the school would clearly like some stability. As a result, Anderson agreed to a five-year contract that includes a buyout of $3 million for the first two years, $2 million for the next two and $1 million for the final year. He appears to be a great fit at Arkansas State. He was born in Jonesboro, raised in Texas and has spent the majority of his coaching career in the Southeast. Also, Anderson inherits a team that should be adept at running his up-tempo offensive attack. **GRADE: B**

Partridge: Florida Atlantic SID; Anderson: Arkansas State SID; Diaco: Bob Stowell/UConn Athletics

15. CHUCK MARTIN Miami (Ohio)

PREVIOUS JOB: OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR, NOTRE DAME

PROS: Martin had a great run as the head coach at Grand Valley State, recording a 74–7 record and winning two Division II national championships from 2004-09. He has experience on both sides of the ball, having served as the defensive coordinator at GVSU (under Brian Kelly), the defensive backs coach at Notre Dame and the offensive coordinator at Notre Dame (with play-calling duties).

CONS: This might not be fair to Martin, but previous Brian Kelly assistants have not fared well after taking over programs in the MAC. Charley Molnar was fired after going 2–22 in two seasons at UMass, and Jeff Quinn is 17–32 overall and 12–20 in four seasons at Buffalo.

FINAL ANALYSIS: Most coaches who take over at Miami, the aptly named "Cradle of Coaches," have the luxury of inheriting a thriving program. That is not the case for Martin. The RedHawks went 0–12 last season and lost those 12 games by an average of 25.9 points. This rebuild will not be easy, but Martin looks to be the right guy at the right time. He's been a successful head coach, and he has spent basically his entire career in the Midwest. GRADE: B

16. CHRIS CREIGHTON Eastern Michigan

PREVIOUS JOB: HEAD COACH, DRAKE

PROS: Creighton has a 139–46 record as a head coach, with stops at Ottawa (NAIA), Wabash (Division III) and Drake (FCS). He went 42–22 overall and 35–13 in league play in his six years at Drake, and the Bulldogs ranked 25th or better nationally in total defense in all but one season.

CONS: Creighton has never coached in the FBS ranks. His offenses struggled during his time at Drake, finishing in the top 50 in yards per game just once in six seasons.

FINAL ANALYSIS: Eastern Michigan is one of the two or three most difficult jobs in the nation right now. The Eagles have won two or fewer games four times in the past five seasons and haven't had a winning record since 1995. Creighton lacks experience at the highest level of college football, but he has won a bunch of games during his 17 years as a head coach (and has not had a losing season). This was a smart hire by the EMU administration. GRADE: B

17. BILL CLARK UAB

PREVIOUS JOB: HEAD COACH, JACKSONVILLE STATE

PROS: Clark is an Alabama native who has spent the majority of his career in the state — 18 years as a high school coach and six in the collegiate game. He has one year of experience as a head coach, guiding Jacksonville State to an 11–4 record and an appearance in the FCS quarterfinals. Clark is an outstanding defensive coach.

CONS: Clark has no experience in the FBS ranks and was coaching high school football as recently as 2007.

FINAL ANALYSIS: It was only two years, but it was clear that things weren't working out with Garrick McGee in charge of the UAB program. In steps Clark, who doesn't have the gaudiest résumé, but he's been successful at every stop. Can he recruit the type of players UAB needs to compete in Conference USA? We'll find out, but the guess here is that his team will always be well coached. GRADE: B

18. MARK WHIPPLE UMass

PREVIOUS JOB: QUARTERBACKS COACH, CLEVELAND BROWNS

PROS: Whipple enjoyed a successful six-year run as the head coach at UMass from 1998-2003, highlighted by the Division I-AA national title in '98. Overall, he is 121–59 as a head coach. He also has seven years of experience in the NFL.

CONS: Whipple voluntarily stepped away from the collegiate game after the 2003 season to become an assistant in the NFL. He hasn't recruited in over a decade.

FINAL ANALYSIS: Once one of the top programs in the FCS ranks, UMass has a 2–22 record in its two seasons since moving to the FBS. Recruiting will be tougher than ever for Whipple and his staff. The program is struggling; it plays several home games per season two hours from campus in Foxboro; and the school's closest rival in the MAC is about 400 miles away (Buffalo). There's not a lot for Whipple to sell. GRADE: B

19. BOB DIACO UConn

PREVIOUS JOB: DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR, NOTRE DAME

PROS: Diaco played a key role in Brian Kelly's success at Central Michigan (2005), Cincinnati (2009) and Notre Dame (2010-13). In 2012, his defense at Notre Dame ranked seventh nationally in yards allowed (305.5 ypg) and only gave up 10 touchdowns in 12 regular-season games.

CONS: Take away the 2012 defense at Notre Dame, and none of the other five units that Diaco coordinated (or co-coordinated) ranked among the top 25 in the nation. Also, Diaco got off to a rough start recruiting. A new coach is always in a tough spot, but his first class ranked last in the American Athletic Conference and 106th nationally according to 247Sports. That's alarmingly low — especially since he was hired on Dec. 12.

FINAL ANALYSIS: Predictably, the Paul Pasqualoni era did not go well at UConn. Now, it's Diaco's turn to restore order to a program that averaged 8.3 wins from 2007-10. His résumé is strong, but he's never been the boss before, and he's at a school that has slipped a few notches down the food chain among FBS programs in the Northeast. GRADE: B-

20. JEFF BROHM Western Kentucky

PREVIOUS JOB: OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR, WESTERN KENTUCKY

PROS: Brohm is a Kentucky native who starred collegiately at Louisville. He has spent five years working with Bobby Petrino — one of the elite offensive coaches in the game — and is familiar with the program after serving as the Hilltoppers' offensive coordinator in 2013. Brohm also bounced around the NFL for seven years with six organizations.

CONS: Brohm has no experience as a head coach in the collegiate ranks. He did spend one season as the boss of the Louisville Fire in the Arena Football League.

FINAL ANALYSIS: Western Kentucky wasted little time in promoting Brohm to the top job after Petrino left for Louisville. With a recognizable name in the state and a reputation for offensive innovation, Brohm should be able to keep Western in the upper echelon of the Sun Belt. GRADE: B-

EXTRA POINTS

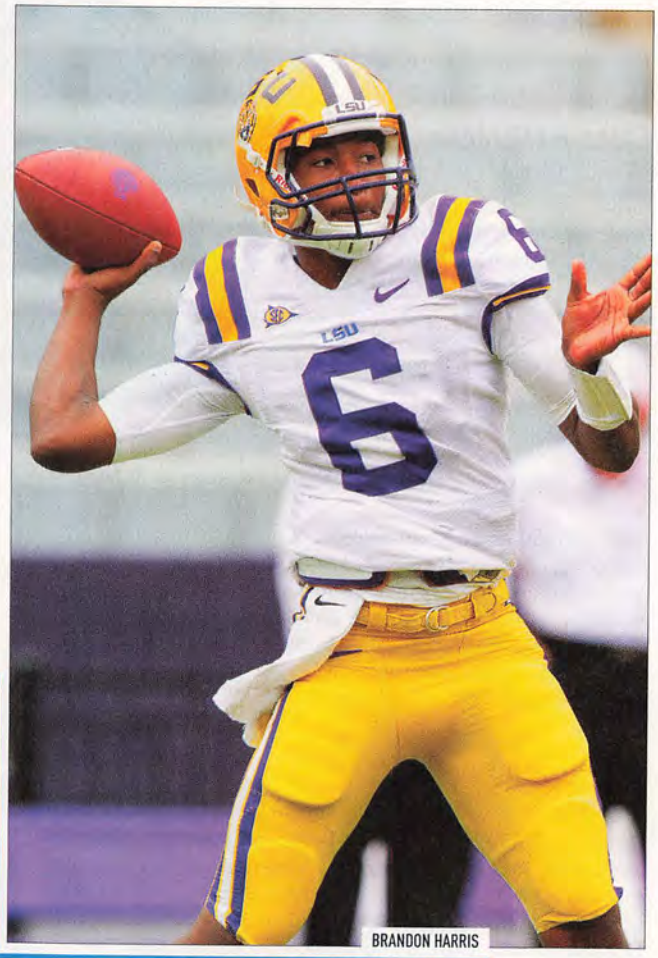
TOP 12 QB BATTLES

ALABAMA

For the first time since 2011, the Crimson Tide enter a fall with uncertainty at quarterback. AJ McCarron graduated after throwing for 9,019 yards over the last four years, and new offensive coordinator Lane Kiffin didn't find an answer in the spring. However, Florida State transfer Jacob Coker will arrive this summer, and the Mobile, Ala., native is expected to win the job. Coker threw for 295 yards in a relief role with the Seminoles over the last two years but has the talent to be one of the top quarterbacks in the SEC. If Coker does not secure the No. 1 spot, Blake Sims or redshirt freshman Cooper Bateman will start. Sims threw for 167 yards as McCarron's backup last year and is more of a dual threat than Coker. **Projected Winner: Coker**

ARIZONA

Rich Rodriguez is regarded as one of college football's top offensive minds, but he has his work cut out for him this offseason. Arizona opened spring practice with seven quarterbacks vying to replace B.J. Denker and went into the offseason with little clarity under center. Senior Jesse Scroggins has a slight edge over redshirt freshman Anu Solomon, Texas transfer Connor Brewer and junior college recruit Jerrard Randall. None of the four frontrunners has ever taken a snap during a regular-season game for the Wildcats. Solomon has the most upside of any quarterback on the roster, but Scroggins has the best grasp of the offense. This battle could continue deep into the season. **Projected Winner: Scroggins**



BRANDON HARRIS

LSU

With a stingy defense and a rushing attack that will be among the best in the SEC, LSU won't ask too much of its quarterback in 2014. And that's a good thing considering that the Tigers have very little experience at the position. Sophomore Anthony Jennings played sparingly as Zach Mettenberger's backup in 2013, completing 13-of-29 passes for 181 yards. Jennings led LSU to a last-minute victory over Arkansas and guided the Tigers to a 21–14 win over Iowa in the Outback Bowl. Despite his edge in experience, Jennings failed to separate from true freshman Brandon Harris in the spring. Harris was a top-100 recruit in the 2014 signing class and has intriguing dual-threat ability. Jennings may open the year as the starter, but Harris will eventually take the starting spot. **Projected Winner: Harris**

Harris: Kyle Zedaker/LSU; Tricket: Bruce Schwartzman

MIAMI

Ryan Williams was expected to replace Stephen Morris, but the senior suffered a torn ACL in spring practice. Williams is slated to return sometime during the year, but it's unlikely he will be ready by the opener. Redshirt freshman Kevin Olsen, sophomore Gray Crow and touted true freshman Brad Kaaya will compete to replace Williams. Olsen — the brother of former Miami standout Greg Olsen — has the inside track to start. He was a four-star recruit coming out of high school and redshirted last season. Kaaya also ranked as a four-star recruit and went 23–3 as a starter in high school. Kaaya has the most upside, but Olsen's edge in experience is valuable with a road date at ACC newcomer Louisville to open the year.
Projected Winner: Olsen

MICHIGAN

For the Wolverines to contend for a Big Ten title, the offense must improve. This unit was a weakness last year, especially on the offensive line and with a sluggish rushing attack. High expectations surrounded quarterback Devin Gardner, and he led all Big Ten quarterbacks with an average of 269.9 passing yards in conference games. But Gardner was inconsistent and tossed 10 picks in the first six contests. A foot injury limited Gardner late in the year, and backup Shane Morris started in the bowl against Kansas State. Morris was a four-star prospect coming out of high school and has the confidence of the coaching staff. Gardner has a secure hold on the No. 1 spot — for now. However, if Gardner struggles early, Brady Hoke won't hesitate to let Morris start. **Projected Winner: Gardner**

TENNESSEE

Butch Jones enters his second season in Knoxville looking for more consistency at the quarterback position. The Volunteers had three different players start under center last year, with Justin Worley leading the team with 1,239 passing yards and 10 touchdowns. Nathan Peterman played in four games, while Joshua Dobbs started four games as a true freshman. Tennessee closed spring practice without a declared No. 1, but Worley and redshirt freshman Riley Ferguson held an edge over Dobbs and Peterman. Ferguson has the edge in talent, but Worley's experience is valuable for a team in transition.
Projected Winner: Worley

TEXAS

New coach Charlie Strong enters the offseason searching for answers at quarterback, a position where the Longhorns have struggled since Colt McCoy left town after the 2009 season. Before a concussion sidelined him last season, David Ash showed progress as a passer by completing 67.3 percent of his throws in 2012, his last healthy season. Ash suffered a foot injury in the spring, which will sideline him until the fall. With Ash limited, sophomore Tyrone Swoopes and true freshman Jerrod Heard will have a chance to close the gap. And the Longhorns will receive additional competition at this position with former USC quarterback Max Wittek's decision to transfer to Austin.
Projected Winner: Ash

TEXAS A&M

Johnny Manziel was the starting quarterback for only two seasons, but he left big shoes to fill in College Station. Matt Joeckel's post-spring transfer left true freshman Kyle Allen and sophomore Kenny Hill battling to replace Manziel. Allen is regarded by some as the top quarterback recruit in the nation and enrolled early to compete in spring practice. Hill has a small edge in experience, completing 16-of-22 passes for 183 yards last season. Although Allen is regarded as a pocket passer, he does have good mobility. However, Hill is the better runner, rushing for 2,305 yards in his last two seasons in high school. With the opener at South Carolina, it's possible Sumlin chooses Hill due to the edge in experience. However, it won't be long before Allen takes over the No. 1 spot. **Projected Winner: Allen**

WASHINGTON

Chris Petersen's first spring practice at Washington was filled with uncertainty at quarterback. The transition from Keith Price to Cyler Miles was expected to be seamless, but Miles was suspended after an off-the-field incident. The sophomore should be reinstated to the team in time for fall practice. However, Troy Williams and Jeff Lindquist already have a head start on Miles, as both quarterbacks had live reps in a new offense this spring. Miles proved he was capable of being a standout quarterback in the Pac-12 in limited action last year. The sophomore is behind heading into the summer, but Miles is Washington's best quarterback.
Projected Winner: Miles

WEST VIRGINIA

Quarterback play is usually a strength in a Dana Holgorsen-coached offense. However, the Mountaineers struggled with consistency under center last year, and the spring failed to provide any answers. Clint Trickett started seven games and led the team with 1,605 passing yards. However, shoulder surgery sidelined the Florida State transfer in the spring. Paul Millard worked extensively with the No. 1 offense in the spring but failed to claim the job. Junior college recruit Skyler Howard is still a work in progress, and his development is critical considering Trickett's injury history.
Projected Winner: Trickett

CLINT TRICKETT

WISCONSIN

Joel Stave has thrown for 3,598 yards and 28 touchdowns over the last two years, but he is locked in a battle with Tanner McEvoy for the starting job this offseason. Stave suffered a shoulder injury in the Capital One Bowl loss to South Carolina and was limited in the spring. That allowed McEvoy, who started his career at South Carolina but transferred to Arizona Western after one year, to close the gap. In his first year with the Badgers, McEvoy made 11 appearances at safety. The junior moved back to QB in the spring, where his athleticism could be an asset for an offense looking for a spark under center. **Projected Winner: McEvoy**

VIRGINIA TECH

As expected in Blacksburg, the Hokies will have one of the nation's top defenses in 2014. But after averaging 22.8 points in eight ACC contests, the offense is a work in progress. Logan Thomas is gone after an up-and-down career, leaving a host of candidates to contend for the starting job. Mark Leal has thrown 48 passes over the last three years and opened spring as the favorite to replace Thomas. However, sophomore Brenden Motley had a strong showing in the spring, and Texas Tech transfer Michael Brewer will arrive in the summer. Brewer was limited in Lubbock due to a back injury last season. **Projected Winner: Brewer**

QUARTERBACKS ON THE MOVE

MICHAEL BREWER

Texas Tech to Virginia Tech Brewer likely would have been the starter at Texas Tech last season, but he missed preseason camp and the first four games with a back injury. He graduated in three years and will have two seasons of eligibility at Virginia Tech.

JACOBY BRISSETT

Florida to NC State Brissett started three games in two seasons at Florida but was not in the Gators' long-term plans. He has already been named the starter at NC State for the 2014 season. He has two seasons of eligibility remaining.

JACOB COKER

Florida State to Alabama The biggest name on the college football "free agent" market, Coker surprised no one when he announced he would transfer to Alabama for his final two seasons of eligibility. The Mobile, Ala., native spent the 2012 season backing up EJ Manuel and the '13 season backing up Jameis Winston.

BRANDON CONNETTE

Duke to Fresno State Connette served as a change-of-pace option for the ACC Coastal champs in 2013. He will have an opportunity to have the position on a full-time basis as the replacement for Derek Carr in Fresno.

PHILLIP ELY

Alabama to Toledo Ely completed three passes in his two seasons at Alabama. The Florida native will have two seasons of eligibility at Toledo.

BLAKE FROHNAPFEL

Marshall to UMass After backing up standout quarterback Rakeem Cato at Marshall the past two seasons, Frohnapfel opted to seek playing time elsewhere. He will have two years of eligibility at UMass, where he is expected to take over the starting role.

ANDREW HENDRIX

Notre Dame to Miami (Ohio) A former four-star recruit from Cincinnati, Hendrix did not start a game in his three seasons at Notre Dame. At Miami, he will be playing for first-year coach Chuck Martin, the former offensive coordinator at Notre Dame.

MATT JOECKEL

Texas A&M to TCU The younger brother of Luke Joeckel, the No. 2 overall pick in the 2013 NFL Draft, left College Station after spring practice. He is the frontrunner to start for TCU in his final season of eligibility.

GUNNER KIEL

Notre Dame to Cincinnati Kiel, once the No. 1 prep quarterback in the nation, left Notre Dame after one season. He will have three seasons of eligibility at Cincinnati.

WES LUNT

Oklahoma State to Illinois Lunt won the job at Oklahoma State as a true freshman in 2012 but started only five games due to injury. The native of Rochester, Ill., will have three years of eligibility with the Illini.

TYLER MURPHY

Florida to Boston College Murphy was thrust into the starting role as a sophomore at Florida last season when Jeff Driskel went down with an injury. He went 2–4 in his six starts. A Connecticut native, Murphy will have one year of eligibility at Boston College.

STEPHEN RIVERS

LSU to Vanderbilt The brother of San Diego Chargers standout Philip Rivers played in four games during his three years at LSU. He will have an outstanding opportunity to earn the starting nod at Vanderbilt, where he will have two years of eligibility.

KENDAL THOMPSON

Oklahoma to Utah Thompson finished third in a three-way quarterback battle as a third-year sophomore at Oklahoma last year. He has played in a total of only five games dating back to his junior season in high school. Thompson will be eligible immediately at Utah.

MAX WITTEK

USC to Texas Wittek spent three seasons at USC, but the former top-100 national recruit was never able to take control of the starting position. He completed 14-of-26 passes for 212 yards last year while backing up Cody Kessler. He will have two seasons of eligibility in Austin.

OTHER TRANSFERS OF NOTE

Braylon Heard, RB, Nebraska to Kentucky
Anthon Samuel, RB, Bowling Green to FIU
Rushel Shell, RB, Pittsburgh to West Virginia
Trevor Davis, WR, Hawaii to California
Nick Harwell, WR, Miami (Ohio) to Kansas
Cayleb Jones, WR, Texas to Arizona
Jordan Leslie, WR, UTEP to BYU
Davonte' Neal, WR, Notre Dame to Arizona
Marvin Shinn, WR, Alabama to South Alabama
Miles Shuler, WR, Rutgers to Northwestern
Jackie Williams, WR, UAB to UCF
Alex Welch, TE, Notre Dame to Miami (Ohio)
Malcolm Bunche, OL, Miami (Fla.) to UCLA
Alex Lewis, OL, Colorado to Nebraska
Chad Lindsay, OL, Alabama to Ohio State
Blake Muir, OL, Hawaii to Baylor
Ian Silberman, OL, Florida to Boston College
Christian Westerman, OL, Auburn to Arizona State
Fadol Brown, DL, FIU to Ole Miss
Jalen Grimble, DL, Miami (Fla.) to Oregon State
Se'Von Pittman, DL, Ohio State to Akron
Delvon Simmons, DL, Texas Tech to USC
Sam Ukwuachu, DL, Boise State to Baylor
Daniel Gray, DB, Tennessee to Utah State
Shane Huhn, DB, UTEP to Texas A&M
Donaldven Manning, DB, Virginia Tech to Marshall
Reggie Mitchell, DB, Wisconsin to Pittsburgh
Najee Murray, DB, Ohio State to Kent State
Cody Riggs, DB, Florida to Notre Dame
Lo Wood, DB, Notre Dame to Miami (Ohio)

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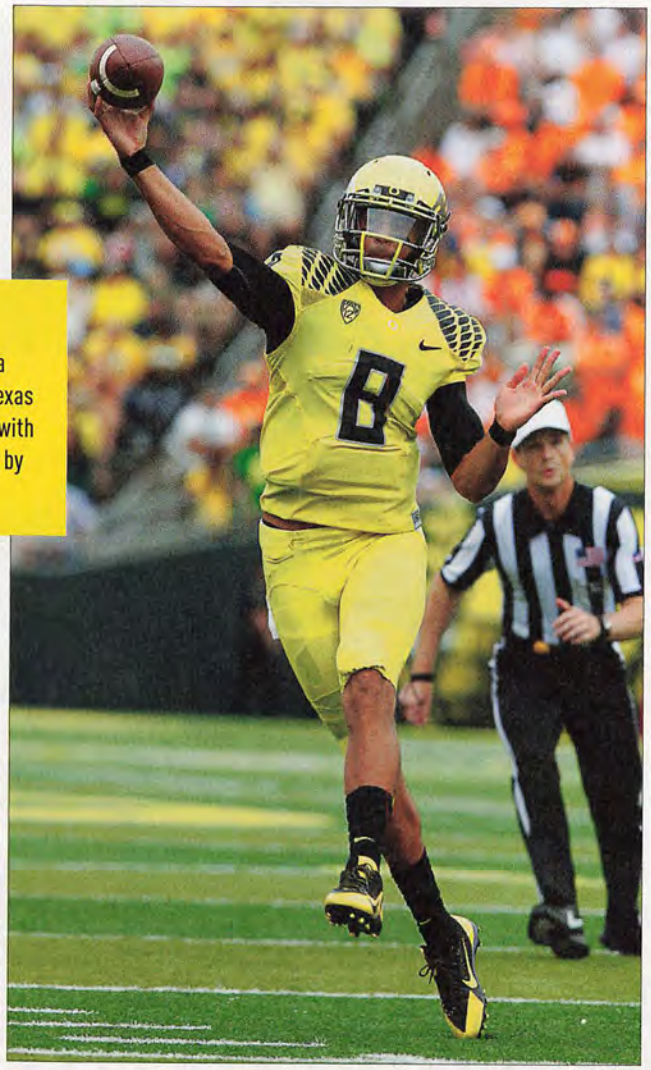


1. MARCUS MARIOTA QB, OREGON

Mariota's rushing production diminished late last season due to a knee injury, but he was at his best in the Ducks' 30–7 win over Texas in the Alamo Bowl — 18-of-26 for 253 yards passing to go along with 133 rushing yards on 15 attempts. Mariota led the nation in 2013 by averaging 9.09 yards per play from scrimmage.

2. JAMEIS WINSTON QB, FLORIDA STATE

Winston has to be among the favorites, but keep in mind that there has only been one two-time Heisman Trophy winner, the great Archie Griffin from Ohio State. Since Griffin won for the second time in '75, eight Heisman winners have returned to school, and only one finished higher than third in the voting the next season — Billy Sims (second in 1979).

3. BRAXTON MILLER QB, OHIO STATE

Athlon Sports' top pick at this time last year, Miller thrived in his second season running Urban Meyer's attack. He completed 63.5 percent of his attempts and was one of only three players nationally with 2,000 yards passing and 1,000 yards rushing.

4. TODD GURLEY RB, GEORGIA

Gurley was off to a great start last year but went down with an ankle injury in the fourth game of the season. He ended the year with 989 yards on a 6.0-yard average. An SEC assistant coach says: "Gurley is as good as I've seen in this league. Nobody wants to tackle the kid, and he runs away from everybody on the defense."

5. BRYCE PETTY QB, BAYLOR

Petty put up obscene numbers in his first year at the controls of Art Briles' offense. He threw for 4,200 yards with 32 touchdowns and only three interceptions. His 10.4 yards per attempt ranked second nationally to Winston, the Heisman Trophy winner.

6. BRETT HUNDLEY QB, UCLA

Hundley has been one of the most underrated quarterbacks in the nation the past two seasons. Hundley, Mariota and Johnny Manziel were the only three players in the nation last season to top 3,000 yards passing and 700 yards rushing.

7. MELVIN GORDON RB, WISCONSIN

Gordon's 1,609 yards ranked 10th in the nation last year, and he led all running backs (min. 150 carries) with a 7.81-yard average. Gordon did feast on a few soft non-conference opponents, but he also had 193 yards against Arizona State and 143 yards against South Carolina in the Capital One Bowl.

8. NICK MARSHALL QB, AUBURN

Marshall emerged as one of the elite playmakers in his first season at Auburn. The converted defensive back is known for his ability to run with the ball (1,068 yards rushing), but he also proved to be a capable passer. He averaged a healthy 8.3 yards per attempt and threw only six interceptions in 239 passes.

9. MIKE DAVIS RB, SOUTH CAROLINA

Davis had 100-plus yards in seven of his first nine games before being slowed down the stretch with a leg injury. With a new starting quarterback, South Carolina might lean on the running game even more in 2014. That's good news for Davis.

10. T.J. YELDON RB, ALABAMA

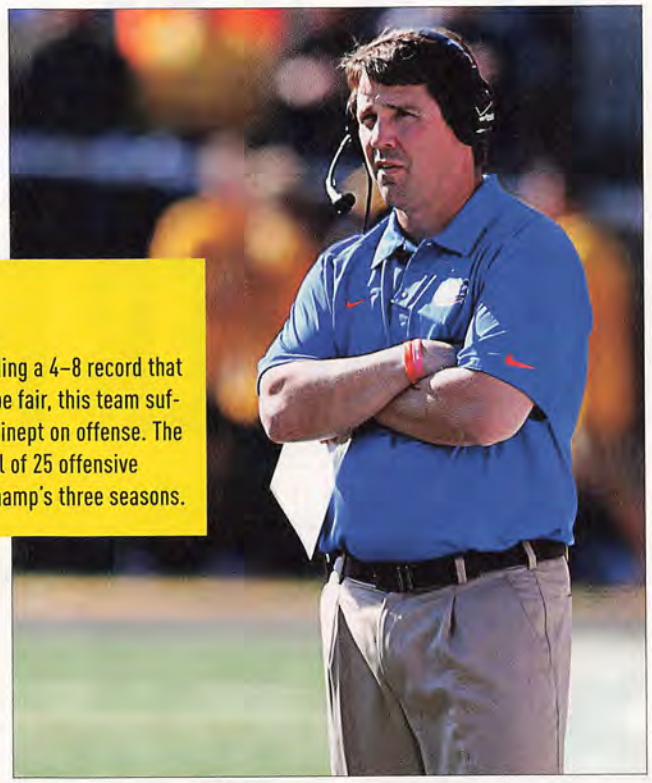
Yeldon was superb in his first season as the Crimson Tide's primary ball-carrier (1,235 yards, 14 TDs), but Alabama's backfield is loaded with playmakers. Will he get enough touches to emerge as a legitimate Heisman Trophy contender?

NEXT TIER

11. Ameer Abdullah, RB, Nebraska
12. Jeremy Langford, RB, Michigan State
13. Christian Hackenberg, QB, Penn State
14. Taylor Kelly, QB, Arizona State
15. Connor Cook, QB, Michigan State
16. Derrick Henry, RB, Alabama
17. Everett Golson, QB, Notre Dame
18. Trevor Knight, QB, Oklahoma
19. Taysom Hill, QB, BYU
20. Myles Jack, LB, UCLA

Mariota: Steve Dipaola; Muschamp: Tim Umphrey

COACHES ON THE HOT SEAT



1. WILL MUSCHAMP, FLORIDA
(22–16, THREE SEASONS)

The Florida program sank to unimaginable depths in 2013, recording a 4–8 record that included losses at home to Vanderbilt and Georgia Southern. To be fair, this team suffered a ton of injuries, but there is no excuse for Florida to be so inept on offense. The Gators ranked 115th nationally in total offense and scored a total of 25 offensive touchdowns. Florida has had a losing SEC record in two of Muschamp's three seasons.

2. MIKE LONDON, VIRGINIA (18–31, FOUR SEASONS)

London was retained even though Virginia went winless (0–8) in the ACC for the first time since 1981 — the year before George Welsh took over. Virginia opened the 2013 season with a surprising win against BYU but failed to beat another FBS opponent the rest of the way. Only one of the Cavs' 10 defeats came by less than 10 points. Despite his recent struggles, London has continued to recruit well. He signed two five-star recruits in February, the No. 1 defensive tackle in the nation (Andrew Brown) and the No. 1 safety in the nation (Quin Blanding).

3. TIM BECKMAN, ILLINOIS (6–18, TWO SEASONS)

Beckman won 16 games over his final two seasons at Toledo but has yet to enjoy any success at Illinois. The Fighting Illini are 1–15 in Big Ten games, with the only win coming by four points over a Purdue team that failed to beat an FBS opponent last year. Illinois has allowed an average of 37.9 points in Big Ten games under Beckman's watch.

4. CHARLIE WEIS, KANSAS (4–20, TWO SEASONS)

Weis' tenure in Lawrence has not gone well. The Jayhawks are 1–17 in Big 12 games in two seasons and have finished last in the league in total offense each year. After winning only one game in Year 1, Weis decided to go for a quick fix, signing 18 junior college transfers in 2013 and eight more this past February. He needs to show significant improvement in Year 3.

5. NORM CHOW, HAWAII (4–20, TWO SEASONS)

Hawaii limped to a 1–11 record in Chow's second season as the boss. His team was competitive at times — the Warriors lost two games in overtime and four others by 10 points or less — but this once-proud program has slipped to the bottom of the food chain in the Mountain West Conference. Hawaii showed improvement on offense in '13 (jumping from 121st in the nation to 58th) but regressed on defense (dropping from 41st to 117th).

6. DANA HOLGORSEN, WEST VIRGINIA (21–17, THREE SEASON)

Holgorsen has won 21 games in three seasons, but the Mountaineers are trending in the wrong direction. They won 10 games in 2011, seven in '12 and only four last season. Defense continues to be the biggest issue for Holgorsen. Last season, the Mountaineers allowed averages of 510.3 yards and 37.7 points per game against Big 12 competition.

7. BO PELINI, NEBRASKA (58–24, SIX SEASONS)

First the good news: Nebraska has won nine games or more in each of Pelini's six seasons. Now the bad news: The Cornhuskers have lost exactly four games in each of his six seasons. Pelini did receive an extension (through 2018) in the offseason, but there will be considerable pressure in the next few years to break through and win a Big Ten title.

8. KYLE FLOOD, RUTGERS (15–11, TWO SEASONS)

Flood has a winning record and has taken Rutgers to back-to-back bowl games, but the program is trending in the wrong direction. The Knights were a very soft 6–7 in 2013 — they didn't beat a team that won more than five games — and finished in the bottom half of the American Athletic Conference in both total offense and defense. Also, there has been significant turnover on the coaching staff during Flood's short tenure, and the school lost several top recruits prior to Signing Day. The Scarlet Knights are not well positioned for their move to the Big Ten.

9. KEVIN WILSON, INDIANA (10–26, THREE SEASONS)

Indiana is making progress under Wilson, but there will be considerable pressure on this team to make a bowl game in his fourth season in Bloomington. The offense has been dynamic, but there needs to be significant improvement on the other side of the ball; the Hoosiers have finished last — by a wide margin — in the Big Ten in total defense in each of Wilson's three seasons.

10. BILL BLANKENSHIP, TULSA (22–17, THREE SEASONS)

The long-time high school coach went 19–8 in his first two years, but the Golden Hurricane slumped to 3–9 in 2013. There's no shame in losing to Oklahoma or Iowa State, but the folks in Tulsa can't be thrilled about losing to teams like Rice, Tulane, UTSA and North Texas.

BECOME A SMARTER FAN

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT COLLEGE FOOTBALL ANALYTICS IN 2014

BY BILL CONNELLY

Analytics have become commonplace in sports. Casual baseball fans know about *Moneyball* and the value of on-base percentage over batting average and have at least heard of WAR (Wins Above Replacement), even if they don't really know what it's good for. Casual basketball fans were probably exposed to John Hollinger's PER (Player Efficiency Rating) system at some point, know about Houston general manager Daryl Morey's background, and may have even picked up on stylistic shifts that were impacted by analytics — more corner 3s, a shunning of long 2-pointers, et cetera.

The analytics revolution has not quite reached mainstream status with the country's most popular sport, however. Football is a more random, complicated sport, with a pointy ball and 22 players who all carry out unique tasks at one time or another. There is more luck and specialization involved in football than in most team sports, and it makes it more difficult to draw obvious conclusions about players, teams or front offices.

Still, at the NFL level, there has been progress. A lot of teams have analytics departments, and sites like Football Outsiders, Advanced NFL Stats and others have been gaining a foothold. Any breakthroughs for football analytics, however, have taken place at the professional level. In college football, where the head coach is the general manager and some graduate assistant is the analytics department, things are a little trickier. Some teams and coaches have a much better feel for when to go for it on fourth down, but that's only one aspect of stats in football.

But the college football statistics community does exist and has been putting out some interesting work for a while. We are on an everlasting quest for more hands on deck, but we get a little further, a little more detailed and a little more engrained with each passing season.

At this stage in the game, what you need to know about college football analytics can be more properly explained by certain truisms instead of specific measures. Here are five points that you need to know about college football and its stats.

1. THERE ARE FIVE FACTORS TO WINNING A FOOTBALL GAME.

So much of football boils down to where you start, how you move the ball, how you finish, and whether or not the pointy ball bounces in your direction. Or to put it another way: The five stats that matter most in football are efficiency, explosiveness, field position, finishing drives and turnovers.

- If you win the field position battle, you win the game 72 percent of the time.
- If you win the turnover battle, you win the game 73 percent of the time.
- If you finish drives better than your opponent, you win 75 percent of the time.
- If you are more efficient than your opponent, you win 83 percent of the time.
- If you are more explosive than your opponent, you win 86 percent of the time.

The college football box score hasn't changed much since the 1920s, and if we were to rebuild it from scratch, we would be well served to build it around these five factors. These concepts are in no way advanced stats, but they are and could be the basis for such.

2. THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN STANDARD DOWNS AND PASSING DOWNS IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WINNING AND LOSING.

You can define standard downs as first down, second-and-7 or fewer, or third- or fourth-and-4 or fewer. Passing downs are the other plays: second-and-8 or more, third- or fourth-and-5 or more.

We've all heard coaches preach the importance of staying on schedule. It is a cliché, but sometimes clichés exist for a reason. A team's Success Rate on standard downs was, on average, 48 percent in 2013; on passing downs, it was 32 percent. Once you fall behind schedule, it is rather difficult to catch up.

3. IN ADVANCED STATS, ADJUSTING FOR OPPONENTS IS EVERYTHING.

One of the biggest problems with college football stats is that you cannot simply look at them and come to immediate conclusions. Fresno State averaged more yards per game than Texas A&M in 2013, and Northern Illinois averaged more than Ohio State. Marshall and Rice won 10 games while Washington won only nine. We know to pause and ask, "Yeah, but who have they played?"

Tom Lynn

Statistically speaking, there are countless ways to adjust for the quality of the opponent at hand (some better than others), but no matter how you do it, you have to do it. In essence, it is what makes "advanced stats" advanced, and while we account for this in every sport, it is never more vital than in college sports. The talent gap from team to team is just too wide.

4. GARBAGE-TIME STATS ARE MOSTLY GARBAGE.

One of the least productive moments of the BCS era (1998-2013) came when decision-makers decided margin of victory should play no role in the BCS formulas. They didn't want to encourage teams to run up the score against overwhelmed opponents. (This ignores that human pollsters are still very much swayed by big margins.) If Team A beat Team B by one point, it was the same as beating that team by 38. It intentionally removed the most telling piece of data for systems that use only points scored and allowed.

There's a better way, anyway. Play-by-play and full-drive college football data can be found publicly now, either at the NCAA's official site, on school sites or at CFBstats.com. And when you use data beyond simple points scored or total yards gained, you can filter out what happens in garbage time, when the game is out of reach. You can look only at what transpired when a game was considered competitive, which retains the important piece that we gleaned from point differential (level of dominance) while removing the part nobody likes (running up the score).

+7.7

Thanks in large part to its elite defense and solid special teams, **MICHIGAN STATE** was able to craft a huge advantage in the field position battle. In fact, the Spartans led the nation in field position margin at plus-7.7. On average, MSU started possessions at its own 33.5-yard line (fifth-best in the country) while its opponents started at their own 25.8-yard line (fourth-best). When teams win the field position battle, they win the game 72 percent of the time, so it's no surprise that Michigan State went 12-1 in 2013.

MEASURING THE FIVE FACTORS

In this publication, you'll find a series of references to what we call the Five Factors. They are interrelated and are more descriptive than prescriptive — you can't simply say, "We need to improve on turnovers" and make it so — but they are wonderfully useful in examining what went right or wrong for a team in the previous season.

So what's the best way to look at these factors? Some are more simple and direct than others.

Field Position: Simply looking at a team's (and its opponent's) average starting field position is a clean way of determining how a team leveraged the field in its favor. A team can create an advantage (or disadvantage) through numerous means — good kicking or punting, good returns, turnovers, avoiding three-and-outs (and creating plenty for the opponent) — but average starting field position is the easiest way to measure the result.

Finishing Drives: In this publication, we'll look at one simple measure to judge the ability to finish drives: points per trip inside the opponent's 40. There is more separation between good and bad teams if you stretch the "scoring opportunity" definition to the 40, but you can get a good feel for drive-finishing ability by looking at the typical red-zone definition, too. WARNING: Avoid "red zone scoring percentage" averages. Over time, there is an enormous difference between scoring a touchdown and settling for a field goal, and "scoring percentage" treats them the same. Aim more toward touchdown percentages or the superior "points per trip."

Turnovers: You can certainly look at turnover margin to roughly gauge the impact of turnovers. You can also look into the field position and points immediately created by those turnovers if you want to get a little bit more accurate.

To aim at both the effect and randomness of turnovers, you will find in this publication a comparison of actual numbers and "projected" turnovers based on what a team's turnover margin would have been with an average number of fumble recoveries (50 percent on average, obviously) and interceptions (a team normally averages one interception for every four pass break-ups). That will give you an idea for both who committed and forced the most and who was particularly lucky or unlucky regarding the bouncing of the pointy ball.

But what about efficiency and explosiveness? They are dominant when it comes to winning football games, but how do we most easily and effectively measure those terms?

Efficiency: Success Rate is an on-base percentage for football; it creates a definition of success for every play — 50 percent of necessary yardage on first down, 70 percent on second down, 100 percent on third or fourth down — and, over time, gives you a clean, easy look at how well a team stays on schedule and ahead of the chains. Explosiveness, your ability to create big plays and easy scores, is often seen as the most important factor in football, but you still have only three to four plays to gain 10 yards, and Success Rate tells you almost everything you need to know about how teams perform in that regard.

Explosiveness: In a pinch, Yards Per Play will suffice just fine when it comes to gauging explosiveness. From an advanced level, there are other options. PPP measures the equivalent point value of every play by assigning a point value to every yard line (based on the net points an offense is expected to generate from yard to yard). Isolated PPP looks at the point value of a team's successful plays (as determined by the Success Rate equation above). With IsoPPP, you can boil offense down to two questions: How often were you successful? And when you were successful, how successful were you?

How do efficiency and explosiveness interact? Here are a couple of examples.

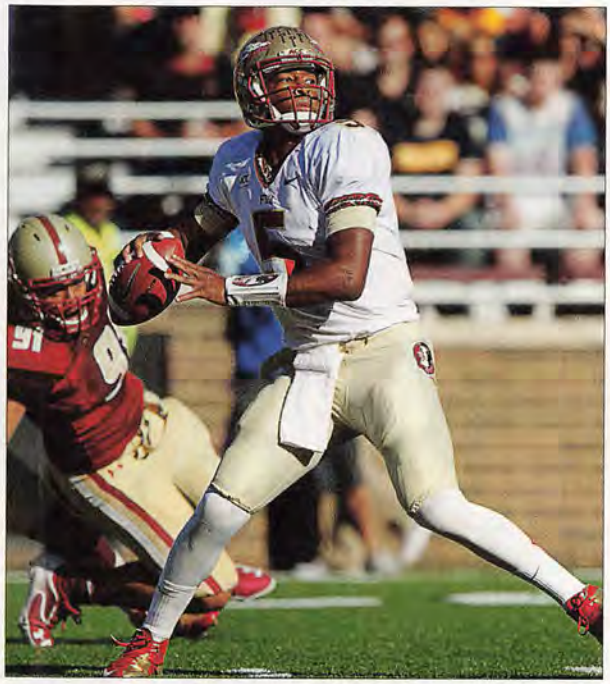
Miami's offense was quite explosive in 2013. The Hurricanes ranked 11th in yards per play (6.8) and third in IsoPPP (1.38), but they were just 51st in Success Rate (44.5 percent). This paints the picture of an offense that could eat up wide swaths of yardage in a short amount of time but made too many mistakes to score consistently.

Alternately, Arizona State's defense ranked a healthy 13th in allowing only a 36.5 percent Success Rate; the Sun Devils were able to create plenty of passing downs and three-and-outs, but they also ranked 67th in yards per play allowed (5.5) and 118th in IsoPPP allowed (1.33). The big plays they allowed were far too big.

5. PACE ADJUSTMENTS ARE ALMOST AS ESSENTIAL.

If Florida State's 2013 offense had run at Baylor's pace, the Seminoles would have projected to average 633 yards and 63 points per game. If Georgia's 2012 offense had played at Oregon's pace, the Bulldogs might have averaged 575 yards and 47 points per game.

We get distracted by big, shiny point and yardage totals, and we sometimes fail to recognize the offenses or defenses that are truly the strongest (or weakest). If you play in the Big 12 or Pac-12, your defense is going to face a ton of high-paced, high-quality offenses and will by default give up more points and yards. That doesn't mean the defenses in those conferences stink any more than it means that ACC or Big Ten defenses are better because they face fewer plays. If advanced stats aren't your thing, you could still do yourself a huge service by looking at yards per play in the box score instead of total yards.



Paul Connors

+22.0%

FLORIDA STATE was dominant in 2013 because the Seminoles were so efficient on both sides of the ball. Efficiency, for an offense or defense, is measured by the rate of successful plays — gaining 50% of necessary yards on 1st down, 70% on 2nd down, 100% on 3rd down. Florida State ranked second in the nation in offensive efficiency (54.5%) and third in defensive efficiency (32.5%). The result was +22.0% efficiency margin, the best in the nation. And when you are more efficient than your opponent, you win 75 percent of the time (or in the Noles' case, 100 percent).

AMAZING PERFORMANCE.

(And we aren't talking about the car.)

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PLAYOFF PRIMER

EVERYTHING YOU **NEED TO KNOW** ABOUT COLLEGE FOOTBALL'S NEW SYSTEM FOR **CROWNING ITS CHAMPION**

BY DAVID FOX

"Finally, the poo-bahs of major college football have seen the light. Smelled the money. They've broken from the past, from almost a century of polls and bowls, and embraced a national playoff."

Those sentences appeared in *Athlon Sports'* 1995 preseason annual as the conferences and the bowls began work on agreements for an updated postseason. The whiff of a college football playoff was in the air as *Athlon* contributor Steve Wieberg — who is now on the inaugural College Football Playoff selection committee — wrote about a hypothetical single-elimination tournament for the 1997 season.

We didn't get the playoff then. We got the BCS.

After 15 years of confusion and hand-wringing over polls and computer rankings, the BCS has come to an end. The conferences, schools and bowls will join the rest of civilized sporting society and determine a champion through a playoff this season.

The name itself is designed to be a tribute to its simplicity: the College Football Playoff. From the same power structure that brought a Bowl Alliance (that didn't include the Rose Bowl) and a Bowl Championship Series (that wasn't a "series" at all) comes a title that says exactly what it is.

College Football Playoff executive director Bill Hancock wants the process of selecting teams to be just as simple.

"The term we are using is 'the best teams,'" Hancock says. "We are not getting into the nuance of the debate of 'best' and 'most deserving.' We think 'best' says it all."

The name is simple. The goals and execution of the CFP are not. All the Playoff needs to accomplish is to be all things to all people. Yep, that's it.

The Playoff needs to have the legitimacy of crowning a true, one and only, national champion for the first time in the history of the college football postseason. It needs to preserve the excitement on college campuses during the shortest regular season in major sports.

The Playoff, perhaps to the chagrin of some fans, also needs to preserve the traditional bowl system that has existed since 1902.

Most important, the Playoff is meant to restore teeth to college football's presence during the New Year's holiday. Beyond expanding the field of teams that can play for a national championship from two to four, the new format aims to reclaim the New Year's holiday for college football.

Not that college football was ever absent from Dec. 31 and Jan. 1, but the title game the following week and BCS games throughout the week diluted the teams and matchups for what traditionally has been college football's signature day.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF

That won't be the case in the next three seasons, with Jan. 1 hosting the national semifinals this season and New Year's Eve hosting the semifinals following the 2015 and 2016 seasons.

This is supposed to be a solution to a postseason that's been unsatisfying for many fans even before the BCS era. Take the four best teams, have them play during a national holiday and have two of them meet for a national championship roughly a week later.

What could go wrong?

AP Photo/Gregory Bull

HERE ARE SOME F.A.Q.'S ABOUT THE NEW SYSTEM AND SOME STRAIGHT-FORWARD ANSWERS (WHERE THEY'RE AVAILABLE).

WHAT IS THE LEAST I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THIS PLAYOFF?

The BCS is kaput. No more computer rankings or polls deciding championship participants. No more No. 1 vs. No. 2 matchup in a winner-take-all national title game. And, in theory, no more split national champions. A selection committee will select the top four teams in the country and place them into semifinals to be played on New Year's Day. The national championship game will be played on a Monday at least a week later.

WHO HOSTS THE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME AND SEMIFINALS?

The championship game will rotate among locations, starting with AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas, for 2014-15, University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, Ariz., in 2015-16 and Raymond James Stadium in Tampa, Fla., in 2016-17.

The answer for the semifinals is a little more complicated. Six bowl games will rotate between hosting semifinals and premier New Year's Day and New Year's Eve bowl games. In 2014-15, the Sugar and Rose bowls will host semifinals on Jan. 1 while the Cotton (Jan. 1) and Orange, Peach and Fiesta bowls (Dec. 31) host other top games determined by the Playoff Selection Committee. In 2015-16, the Orange and Cotton bowls will host the semifinals before passing the baton to the Peach and Fiesta bowls in 2016-17. The College Football Playoff brass is calling the semifinals and other four premier bowls the "New Year's Six." Think of the non-Playoff bowls as the non-championship "BCS" games under a new name.

WHAT WILL THE SELECTION COMMITTEE DO?

The selection committee will rank the top-25 teams in the country and assign the top four in the semifinals. After that, it will place the next group of at-large teams into the New Year's Day bowls and identify the top teams from the American, Conference USA, MAC, Mountain West and Sun Belt. In essence, the selection committee is picking the field for the championship (the Playoff) and the consolation prizes (the best non-Playoff bowls).

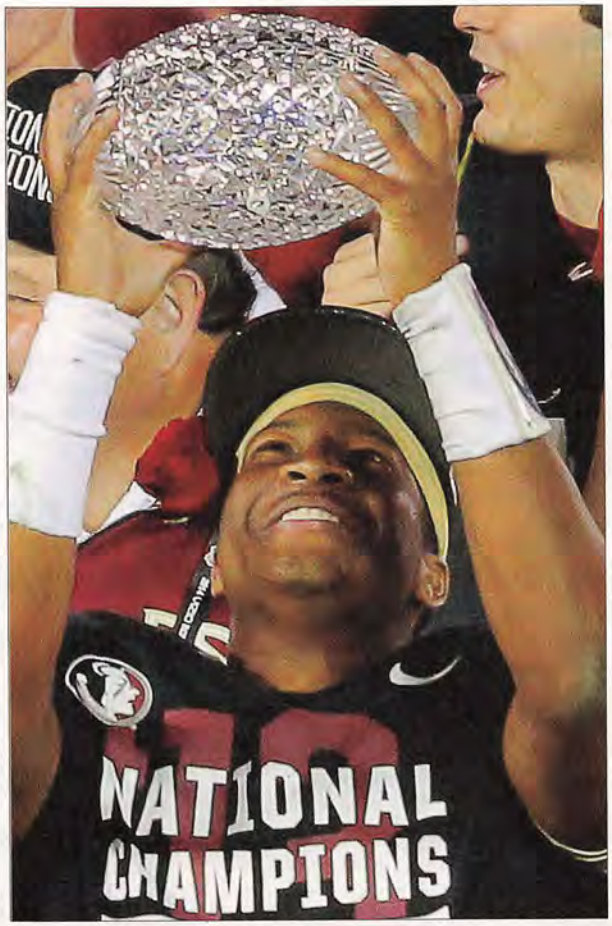
College Football Playoff Schedule

	SUGAR	ROSE	ORANGE	COTTON	PEACH	FIESTA	CHAMPIONSHIP
2014-15	Semi-Final (Jan. 1)	Semi-Final (Jan. 1)	Orange (Dec. 31)	Cotton (Jan. 1)	Peach (Dec. 31)	Fiesta (Dec. 31)	Arlington, Texas (Jan. 12)
2015-16	Sugar (Jan. 1)	Rose (Jan. 1)	Semi-Final (Dec. 31)	Semi-Final (Dec. 31)	Peach (Dec. 31)	Fiesta (Jan. 1)	Glendale, Ariz. (Jan. 11)
2016-17	Sugar (Jan. 2)	Rose (Jan. 2)	Orange (Dec. 31)	Cotton (Jan. 2)	Semi-Final (Dec. 30)	Semi-Final (Dec. 30)	Tampa, Fla. (Jan. 9)

WHAT CRITERIA WILL THE SELECTION COMMITTEE USE TO RANK TEAMS?

That's not clear. In basketball, the NCAA Tournament Selection Committee has established benchmarks — top-50 wins, bad losses, strength of schedule and the RPI. The football selection committee has no precedent, so it's not clear what metrics will be used to determine the "best" teams. The Playoff has retained a company called SportSource Analytics to provide statistical data to aid the committee in comparing teams. What that entails is not clear, but it will include opponents' record, opponents' opponents' record and other unspecified data.

"The selection committee's charge is to use common sense and to consider strength of schedule, conference championships won, head-to-head, results against common opponents," Hancock says. "Those are the four overarching standards."



Hancock also says the committee will not dictate how leagues structure their conference schedules. The Big 12, Big Ten and Pac-12 will play nine-game schedules in the Playoff era. The ACC will play eight games plus a five-team deal with Notre Dame. The SEC will play eight league games while requiring teams to play at least one game against a team from the other four major conferences. The Big 12 is the only league among the major conferences without a title game.

WHY NOT INCLUDE TOOLS LIKE COLLEGE BASKETBALL'S RPI?

Remember how much you hated the BCS computers? The Playoff took note. "We intentionally did not create one single metric because we had that in the BCS," Hancock says. "We created the selection committee because we wanted the human factor to be involved, for human judgment to be involved. Committee members will be able to say Team X lost in the second week of the season, but let's remember that their left tackle didn't play and now he's back."

HOW WILL THE COMMITTEE HANDLE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST?

The first selection committee will include five sitting athletic directors. At some point, a selection committee member likely will be in a position to vote for his or her own program into the semifinals. The Playoff established a policy that will recuse committee members if they or an immediate family member receives compensation from the school or has a professional relationship with the program. Recused committee members may not vote or be present during deliberations involving their schools.

WHAT ARE THE LOGISTICS OF RANKING TEAMS?

The committee will meet in person in Dallas on Mondays and Tuesdays starting in late October. Each committee member will devise a top 25. Through a step-by-step process, the committee will whittle its pool of teams under consideration into groups of six and then groups of three until it arrives at a consensus top 25.

HOW WILL THIS CHANGE MY WEEKLY FOOTBALL ROUTINE?

Remember that Sunday night BCS rankings show? That in essence moves to Tuesdays, when the selection committee will release its top 25 on ESPN.

HOW IS THIS PROCESS AN IMPROVEMENT OVER THE LAST ONE?

The rankings process appears to be more deliberate and rigorous than the BCS system, if only because the committee has three days to analyze Saturday's games and two days to deliberate. No more AP voters on deadline or coaches (or athletic department staffers) filing top-25 ballots Saturday night. The committee members' individual ballots and votes will not be made public.

WHAT ARE THE POTENTIAL PROBLEMS?

Releasing a weekly poll every week starting in late October is an admirable attempt at transparency. Selection committee chair Jeff Long also will appear on ESPN to explain the rankings. But transparency will come at price when, inevitably, a team continues to win yet drops in the rankings, perhaps out of a Playoff spot. Coaches and athletic directors will be asked to defend — or stump for — their seasons throughout November until the final rankings after the conference title games. The Playoff may soon learn why the basketball committee doesn't tip its hand until Selection Sunday.

AFTER 15 YEARS OF CONFUSION AND HAND-WRINGING OVER POLLS AND COMPUTER RANKINGS, THE BCS HAS COME TO AN END. THE CONFERENCES, SCHOOLS AND BOWLS WILL JOIN THE REST OF CIVILIZED SPORTING SOCIETY AND DETERMINE A CHAMPION THROUGH A PLAYOFF THIS SEASON.

WHAT KIND OF TURNOVER WILL THERE BE ON THE SELECTION COMMITTEE?

Term limits haven't been set, but committee members generally will serve three seasons. Members of the first committee, though, will have variable terms to achieve a rotation for future years.

WHAT DOES "ASSIGN" THE PLAYOFF TEAMS MEAN?

Hancock says the Playoff will match the selection committee's No. 1 vs. No. 4 team and the No. 2 vs. No. 3 team. At the same time, he says the No. 1 team will be protected. It seems those goals might not always coincide, right? What if LSU is a No. 4 seed in a potential semifinal at the Sugar Bowl? Or USC or UCLA at the Rose Bowl? Or Georgia in the Peach Bowl? Could the selection committee negate a regional advantage for the No. 1 seed by placing them into the backyard of the No. 4 seed? Or will the selection committee slyly shift a team up a seed line to give a No. 1 seed a more pronounced home-field advantage? We may find out.

IS THERE A LIMIT TO HOW MANY TEAMS FROM A PARTICULAR CONFERENCE CAN GO TO THE PLAYOFF?

No. Conceivably, one conference could send four teams to the playoff, though that seems unlikely. No conference is guaranteed a bid in the semifinal, and no conference is barred. Although conference championships are mentioned as a factor for the selection committee, the Playoff doesn't require a team to win its league or even its division to be selected for a spot in the semifinal.

HERE'S HOW THE POSTSEASON MIGHT LOOK WITH OUR PRESEASON RANKINGS AS A TEMPLATE:

Step 1: The selection committee ranks and assigns teams to the semifinals.
Let's say the top four is: No. 1 Florida State (ACC champion), No. 2 Alabama (SEC champion), No. 3 Ohio State (Big Ten champion) and No. 4 Oklahoma (Big 12 champion):

Sugar Bowl semifinal:
No. 1 Florida State vs. No. 4 Oklahoma

Rose Bowl semifinal:
No. 2 Alabama vs. No. 3 Ohio State

Step 2: The contract bowls fill their spots.
The Orange Bowl fulfills its contract with the ACC by selecting No. 21 Clemson, the best available team from the ACC, to replace Florida State, and No. 5 Auburn, the highest-ranked team remaining among the SEC, Big Ten and Notre Dame. The Orange Bowl is not necessarily obligated to select the highest-ranked remaining team from the ACC, however.

Step 3: The pool of teams for the six remaining bowl slots is determined.
The Pac-12 champion, contracted to play in the Rose Bowl in non-Playoff years, is guaranteed a slot in the Cotton, Fiesta or Peach since it is not part of the Playoff. In our rankings, that team is No. 6 Oregon. The committee also determines the highest-ranked team outside of the "Group of Five," which is guaranteed a bid. In our rankings, that team is No. 40 Marshall. The final four spots — the at-large bids, if you will — go to the highest-ranked remaining teams: No. 7 UCLA, No. 8 Georgia, No. 9 South Carolina and No. 10 Baylor.

Step 4: The selection committee assigns the remaining six spots in the New Year's Day bowls with the best remaining teams in the rankings, being mindful of geography and avoiding rematches or repeat trips to a bowl. The selection committee may assign bowls as follows:
Fiesta: No. 6 Oregon vs. No. 9 South Carolina

Cotton: No. 7 UCLA vs. No. 10 Baylor

Peach: No. 8 Georgia vs. No. 40 Marshall

WHAT ABOUT THOSE OTHER BIG-TIME BOWL GAMES THAT AREN'T PART OF THE PLAYOFF? ARE THERE AUTOMATIC BIDS TO THESE BOWL GAMES?

Yes and no. There are no automatic berths to the Playoff for conference champions. However, the Rose, Sugar and Orange bowls (aka, the "contract bowls") have their traditional conference tie-ins during years they are not hosting the semifinals. In years major conference champions aren't in the Playoff, those teams will head to their traditional destinations: the Big Ten and Pac-12 to the Rose, the SEC and Big 12 to the Sugar and the ACC to the Orange. The only change is the Big 12's contract with the Sugar rather than the Fiesta. When a "contract bowl" loses a conference champion, the selection committee assigns the next highest-ranked team from that league to the bowl game. So, if Florida State wins the ACC and earns a bid to the Playoff this season, the Orange Bowl will take the next highest-ranked ACC team as an automatic bid.

The Playoff means that the traditional bowl pairings will occur on an inconsistent basis. Meetings of conference champions will be even more rare. When the Rose Bowl hosts a semifinal, for example, it will only have a matchup of Big Ten/Pac-12 champions if those teams happen to be in the Rose Bowl's portion of the bracket. When the Rose Bowl isn't hosting a semifinal, the game still will have a Big Ten/Pac-12 matchup, but a matchup of Big Ten/Pac-12 champions seems unlikely, as one or the other (or both) would likely be in the playoff.

The selection committee then will fill the remaining three New Year's Six bowls — the Cotton, the Fiesta and the Peach — with the highest-ranked teams remaining once the semifinals and contract spots in the Rose, Orange and Sugar are filled.

There are other stipulations: The highest-ranked champion from the so-called "Group of Five" — the American, Conference USA, MAC, Mountain West and Sun Belt — is guaranteed a bid to one of these three bowls. The Orange Bowl's second spot opposite the ACC team will be the highest-ranked remaining team from the Big Ten or SEC or Notre Dame.

When assigning these games, the selection committee will tend to favor geographic fit while attempting to avoid rematches or sending the same teams to the same bowl game.

HOW HAS THE ROSE BOWL MANAGED TO BE STUBBORN IN ALL OF THIS?

The Rose Bowl is losing some its traditional role in the college football world but not all of it. The Rose Bowl will still be played at 5 p.m. Eastern on New Year's Day, whether it is hosting a playoff or not. That means when the Rose Bowl hosts a semifinal, the semis will be on New Year's Day. When the Rose Bowl does not host a Playoff game, the semifinals will be on New Year's Eve.

WHAT ABOUT NOTRE DAME?

Notre Dame is in the mix for the Orange Bowl spot opposite an ACC opponent. The Orange Bowl will select the highest-ranked team available among Notre Dame, a team from the Big Ten or a team from the SEC. The Orange Bowl is obligated to take three teams each from the Big Ten and SEC during the next 12 years.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE REST OF THE BOWL GAMES?

The rest of the bowl structure — the Capital One, the Holiday, the Outback and so on — will continue independent of the Playoff structure other than the provision that they won't be played at the same time as a semifinal. So the Capital One Bowl can still feature an SEC/Big Ten matchup on New Year's Day, just not at the same time as a Playoff game in the Sugar or Rose bowls.

WHO IS ON THIS SELECTION COMMITTEE?

The 13-person selection committee, picked by the FBS conference commissioners, is designed to be a cross-section of luminaries from college athletics, higher education and government. The selection committee for 2014 will consist of:

- **Jeff Long** Arkansas athletic director and chair of the committee
- **Barry Alvarez** Wisconsin athletic director and former coach
- **Mike Gould** former superintendent at the Air Force Academy
- **Pat Haden** USC athletic director
- **Tom Jernstedt** former NCAA executive vice president
- **Oliver Luck** West Virginia athletic director
- **Archie Manning** former Ole Miss and New Orleans Saints quarterback
- **Tom Osborne** former coach and athletic director at Nebraska
- **Dan Radakovich** Clemson athletic director
- **Condoleezza Rice** former Secretary of State and Stanford provost
- **Mike Tranghese** former Big East commissioner
- **Steve Wieberg** retired *USA Today* college football reporter
- **Tyrone Willingham** former coach at Notre Dame, Stanford and Washington

[Ed. note: Remember the 1995 "poo-bahs of major college football" passage at the top of this story? It was written by then-Athlon contributor Steve Wieberg, who is on the committee.]

THE 10 CONFERENCES AND NOTRE DAME WILL SPLIT AN AVERAGE OF $470 MILLION OVER THE COURSE OF THE RIGHTS DEAL WITH ESPN.

WHAT ABOUT THE MONEY?

The 10 conferences and Notre Dame will split an average of $470 million over the course of the rights deal with ESPN, according to a report from *USA Today*. The ACC, Big 12, Big Ten, Pac-12 and SEC will split roughly 71.5 percent of the revenue after expenses, while the "Group of Five" will split 27 percent. Notre Dame receives less than one percent.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The Playoff contract between the conferences and the bowls lasts for 12 years, so at minimum this four-team playoff will last until 2024-25.

WHERE CAN I WATCH THIS THING?

The College Football Playoff will be aired on ESPN.

FCS 2014 PREVIEW

1 EASTERN WASHINGTON (12-3, 8-0 BIG SKY)

Few teams are motivated quite like the Eagles, who have lost at home in the FCS semifinals the last two seasons. Coach Beau Baldwin's program has the firepower to match the 2010 national championship squad, as opponents must pick their poison between trying to stop quarterback **Vernon Adams** (4,994 yards, 55 TDs), wide receiver Cooper Kupp (93 receptions, 1,691 yards, 21 TDs) and running back Quincy Forte (1,208 rushing yards, 16 total TDs). While the offense scores in bunches, linebackers Ronnie Hamlin and Cody McCarthy will push for improvement from the defense.

2. NORTH DAKOTA STATE

(15-0, 8-0 MISSOURI VALLEY) New coach Chris Klieman inherits a team that graduated 24 seniors, so the Bison must display the overall depth built up by the previous regime while chasing what would be an FCS-record fourth straight national title. The nation's best defense for three straight years still features linebacker Carlton Littlejohn and safety Colten Heagle. New quarterback Carson Wentz has go-to weapons in wide receiver Zach Vraa and running back John Crockett.

3. SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA

(11-3, 7-0 SOUTHLAND) Former Oregon quarterback Bryan Bennett has set the bar high for the many transfers whom coach Ron Roberts has brought into the program. The 2013 conference Player of the Year is a dual threat, but he also wants to get the ball to playmakers Rasheed Harrell and Xavier Roberson. Pass-rushing linebacker Isiah Corbett fuels the defense.

4. NEW HAMPSHIRE

(10-5, 6-2 CAA) Many key players return from last season's surprising national semifinalists, including 1,000-yard rusher Nico Steriti and 1,000-yard wide receiver R.J. Harris. The big plays on coach Sean McDonnell's defense often come from linebacker Akil Anderson and safety Casey DeAndrade. New Hampshire doesn't face Villanova or Towson in CAA play.

5. NORTHERN IOWA

(7-5, 3-5 MISSOURI VALLEY) The Panthers ended the 2013 season strong after injuries wrecked their promising start. Better health with quarterback Sawyer Kollmorgen, running back David Johnson and linebacker Jake Farley, son of coach Mark Farley, could lead to a conference title run. Opposing ball-carriers will look to avoid 6'4", 311-pound defensive tackle Xavier Williams.

6. JACKSONVILLE STATE

(11-4, 5-3 OVC) Offensive coordinator John Grass was elevated to head coach after Bill Clark left for UAB. Grass' veteran team will keep relying on bulldozer running back DaMarcus James and sophomore quarterback Eli Jenkins. The Gamecocks added Alabama transfer LaMichael Fanning, a defensive end.

7. MONTANA

(10-3, 6-2 BIG SKY) Senior quarterback Jordan Johnson ignites an offense that has plenty of options with wide receiver Ellis Henderson and running backs Jordan Canada and Travon Van. Although there are big losses at linebacker, defensive end Zack Wagenmann is among the best in the nation. The special teams are strong.

8. VILLANOVA

(6-5, 5-3 CAA) Last year's CAA favorites were among the nation's more disappointing teams, but the Wildcats will return to prominence behind dual-threat quarterback John Robertson, who can be unstoppable, and running backs Kevin Monangai and Austin Medley. Linebackers Don Cherry and Joey Harmon both had breakthrough seasons.

9. MCNEESE STATE

(10-3, 6-1 SOUTHLAND) Coach Matt Viator must replace quarterback Cody Stroud and other key players on offense, but running backs Kelvin Bennett and Derek Milton, a Mississippi State transfer, are ready for lead roles. There were fewer losses on defense, where senior end Everett Ellefsen is the leader.

10. TOWSON

(13-3, 6-2 CAA) The early departure of 2,500-yard running back Terrance West to the NFL has set back the national runner-up Tigers. But his understudy, Darius Victor, impressed as a freshman last season, and coach Rob Ambrose has raised the talent level. Defensive end Ryan Delaire and cornerback Tye Smith are difference-makers.

AP Photo/The Spokesman-Review, Tyler Tjomsland

11. SOUTH DAKOTA STATE

(9-5, 5-3 MISSOURI VALLEY) Senior running back Zach Zenner can become the first FCS player to rush for 2,000 yards in a season three times. The Austin Sumner-to-Jason Schneider passing combo takes pressure off Zenner. Still, the Jackrabbits have to fill some holes on both lines.

12. CHATTANOOGA

(8-4, 6-2 SOUTHERN) The Southern Conference is down, and the Mocs, seeking their first FCS playoff berth since 1984, return the SoCon Offensive Player of the Year (quarterback Jacob Huesman) and Defensive Player of the Year (end Davis Tull). A healthier Keon Williams could make a run at a 1,000-yard season.

13. FORDHAM

(12-2, 0-0 PATRIOT) The Rams, who began awarding scholarships three years before the rest of the Patriot League, are eligible for the league title again. Senior quarterback Michael Nebrich (4,380 yards, 35 touchdowns) will pick apart defenses with his three 1,000-yard wide receivers — Sam Ajala, Tebucky Jones and Brian Wetzel.

14. COASTAL CAROLINA

(12-3, 4-1 BIG SOUTH) Junior quarterback Alex Ross is one of the better-kept secrets in the FCS. Running back De'Angelo Henderson will try to replace All-American Lorenzo Taliaferro. Speaking of All-Americans, linebacker Quinn Backus already owns two Big South Defensive Player of the Year awards.

15. WILLIAM & MARY

(7-5, 4-4 CAA) There will be a mugging or two reported in Williamsburg, where the Tribe have a suffocating defense led by All-CAA selections Mike Reilly at end and Airek Green and Luke Rhodes at linebacker. The offense features running back Mikal Abdul-Saboor and wide receiver Tre McBride.

16. MONTANA STATE

(7-5, 5-3 BIG SKY) One of the easier Big Sky schedules will help the Bobcats try to rebound from a disappointing season. All-purpose standout Shawn Johnson racks up the yards, and Na'a Moeakiola returns from injury to join Alex Singleton at linebacker.

17. TENNESSEE STATE

(10-4, 6-2 OVC) Ball-hawking safety Daniel Fitzpatrick allows defensive end Anthony Bass and linebacker Nick Thrasher to dominate in the front seven. Quarterback Michael German needs to remain on the field, although Ronald Butler is capable of spelling him.

18. RICHMOND

(6-6, 4-4 CAA) The CAA's most dangerous passer, senior Michael Strauss, will operate behind a veteran offensive line and alongside excellent weapons, including wide receiver Stephen Barnette. The defense forces turnovers, and defensive tackle Evan Kelly gets into opposing backfields.

19. FURMAN

(8-6, 6-2 SOUTHERN) Coach Bruce Fowler flipped the switch on a team that was 2-4 in mid-October. Much of the talent is back, including quarterback Reese Hannon, blue-collar running back Hank McCloud and the defensive playmakers, defensive end Gary Wilkins and nickel Jairus Hollman.

20. SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

(7-5, 5-3 MISSOURI VALLEY) Sophomore quarterback Ryan West will spread the ball around to running back Malcolm Agnew, All-America tight end MyCole Pruitt and all-purpose threat LaSteven McKinney. The former FCS power has to win more of the close games.

21. SAM HOUSTON STATE

(9-5, 4-3 SOUTHLAND) Former FCS title-winning coach K.C. Keeler from Delaware is the new sheriff in Huntsville, Texas, but change was coming regardless after the Bearkats' standout senior class moved on. Running back Keshawn Hill is a breakaway threat, while free safety Michael Wade fuels a retooled defense.

22. JAMES MADISON

(6-6, 3-5 CAA) The big crowds at Bridgeforth Stadium are hoping for quick returns from new coach Everett Withers, who was the interim head coach at North Carolina in 2011. Georgia Tech transfer Vad Lee takes over at quarterback. Safety Dean Marlowe and linebacker Gage Steele are standouts on defense.

23. DELAWARE

(7-5, 4-4 CAA) The Trent Hurley-to-Michael Johnson passing connection is dangerous, and linebacker Patrick Callaway fortifies the defense. The Blue Hens missed the 2013 playoffs by losing their final three games last season.

24. EASTERN ILLINOIS

(12-2, 8-0 OVC) A drop-off is likely after the Panthers lost star quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo to the NFL and coach Dino Babers to Bowling Green. First-year coach Kim Dameron still has top receivers and playmaking running back Shepard Little (1,551 yards, 19 total TDs).

25. YOUNGSTOWN STATE

(8-4, 5-3 MISSOURI VALLEY) Opponents will key on sophomore tailback Martin Ruiz now that four-year quarterback Kurt Hess is gone. The new signal-caller will have a strong group of receivers, but the four-time FCS championship-winning program hasn't been to the postseason since 2006.

FCS ALL-AMERICA TEAM

OFFENSE

QB	VERNON ADAMS	6-0/190/JR.	EASTERN WASHINGTON
RB	DAVID JOHNSON	6-3/225/SR.	NORTHERN IOWA
RB	ZACH ZENNER	6-0/220/SR.	SOUTH DAKOTA STATE
FB	EMMANUEL HOLDER	5-11/255/JR.	TOWSON
WR	SAM AJALA	6-0/195/SR.	FORDHAM
WR	COOPER KUPP	6-2/195/SO.	EASTERN WASHINGTON
TE	MYCOLE PRUITT	6-3/250/SR.	SOUTHERN ILLINOIS
C	MAX HOLCOMBE	6-3/290/SR.	JACKSONVILLE STATE
G	ROBERT BOOKER	6-3/315/JR.	MISSOURI STATE
G	COLLIN SEIBERT	6-4/280/SR.	EASTERN ILLINOIS
T	ANTIONE EVERETT	6-3/325/SR.	MCNEESE STATE
T	JACK RUMMELLS	6-5/301/SR.	NORTHERN IOWA

DEFENSE

DE	SHAQUILLE RIDDICK	6-7/240/SR.	GARDNER-WEBB
DE	DAVIS TULL	6-3/240/SR.	CHATTANOOGA
DT	O.J. LE'IATUA MALI	6-2/302/JR.	GARDNER-WEBB
DT	TROY MOORE	6-3/285/SR.	SACRED HEART
LB	QUINN BACKUS	5-10/215/SR.	COASTAL CAROLINA
LB	TONY BELL	6-1/200/SR.	UT MARTIN
LB	LYNDEN TRAIL	6-7/260/SR.	NORFOLK STATE
CB	HARLAN MILLER	6-0/170/JR.	SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA
CB	TYE SMITH	6-0/170 SR.	TOWSON
S	DANIEL FITZPATRICK	6-2/210/SR.	TENNESSEE STATE
S	CALEB SCHAFFITZEL	6-0/214/SR.	MISSOURI STATE

SPECIALISTS

K	THOMAS KINNEY	5-8/174/SR.	SOUTHERN ILLINOIS
P	KYLE LOOMIS	6-2/210/SR.	PORTLAND STATE
KR	XAVIER ROBERSON	5-9/170/JR.	SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA
PR	ADRIAN WILKINS	5-8/170/JR.	NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL

PROJECTED PLAYOFF QUALIFIERS

- COASTAL CAROLINA (BIG SOUTH CHAMP)
- EASTERN WASHINGTON (BIG SKY CHAMP)
- FORDHAM (PATRIOT CHAMP)
- FURMAN (AT-LARGE)
- JACKSONVILLE STATE (OVC CHAMP)
- MCNEESE STATE (AT-LARGE)
- MONTANA (AT-LARGE)
- MONTANA STATE (AT-LARGE)
- NEW HAMPSHIRE (CAA CHAMP)
- NORTH DAKOTA STATE (MISSOURI VALLEY CHAMP)
- NORTHERN IOWA (AT-LARGE)
- RICHMOND (AT-LARGE)
- SACRED HEART (NEC CHAMP)
- SAM HOUSTON STATE (AT-LARGE)
- SAN DIEGO (PIONEER CHAMP)
- SOUTH CAROLINA STATE (MEAC CHAMP)
- SOUTH DAKOTA STATE (AT-LARGE)
- SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA (SOUTHLAND CHAMP)
- SOUTHERN ILLINOIS (AT-LARGE)
- CHATTANOOGA (SOUTHERN CHAMP)
- TENNESSEE STATE (AT-LARGE)
- TOWSON (AT-LARGE)
- VILLANOVA (AT-LARGE)
- WILLIAM & MARY (AT-LARGE)

ATHLON SPORTS
AMERICA'S PREMIER SPORTS PUBLISHER

PRESEASON RANKINGS

1. Florida State
2. Alabama
3. Ohio State
4. Oklahoma
5. Auburn
6. Oregon
7. UCLA
8. Georgia
9. South Carolina
10. Baylor
11. Michigan State
12. Stanford
13. Notre Dame
14. USC
15. Wisconsin
16. Arizona State
17. Texas
18. Ole Miss
19. LSU
20. Kansas State
21. Clemson
22. Penn State
23. Florida
24. Washington
25. Missouri
26. Iowa
27. Virginia Tech
28. Louisville
29. Nebraska
30. Miami
31. North Carolina
32. Michigan
33. Mississippi State
34. Texas A&M
35. BYU
36. Pittsburgh
37. Oklahoma State
38. Duke
39. TCU
40. Marshall
41. Texas Tech
42. Tennessee
43. Cincinnati
44. Vanderbilt
45. Arizona
46. Boise State
47. Georgia Tech
48. Maryland
49. Utah State
50. East Carolina
51. Northwestern
52. Minnesota
53. Oregon State
54. Utah
55. UCF
56. Washington State
57. Navy
58. Indiana
59. Bowling Green
60. UL Lafayette
61. Syracuse
62. Fresno State
63. Arkansas
64. Boston College
65. NC State
66. Iowa State
67. West Virginia
68. Illinois
69. Houston
70. Kentucky
71. Colorado
72. Virginia
73. Rutgers
74. Colorado State
75. Toledo
76. California
77. Northern Illinois
78. Kansas
79. Ball State
80. Purdue
81. South Florida
82. Nevada
83. San Diego State
84. South Alabama
85. Wake Forest
86. North Texas
87. Rice
88. Connecticut
89. UTSA
90. Middle Tennessee
91. Florida Atlantic
92. Western Kentucky
93. Arkansas State
94. Wyoming
95. Ohio
96. SMU
97. Akron
98. Memphis
99. Tulane
100. Temple
101. UNLV
102. Tulsa
103. San Jose State
104. Buffalo
105. Air Force
106. New Mexico
107. Central Michigan
108. Troy
109. UAB
110. ULM
111. Army
112. Louisiana Tech
113. Texas State
114. Kent State
115. Southern Miss
116. Old Dominion
117. UTEP
118. Hawaii
119. Western Michigan
120. Miami (Ohio)
121. UMass
122. Georgia Southern
123. Appalachian State
124. Eastern Michigan
125. Idaho
126. Georgia State
127. FIU
128. New Mexico State

Tom DiPace

THE MARK OF
ONE TRUE CHAMPION

In the Big 12 Conference,
there are no divisions. Year after year,
each team plays every other team
matching high-octane offenses
against hard-hitting defenses to
the excitement of passionate fans
in college football's top venues.
Ten teams. Nine games.
One true champion.

BIG 12 CONFERENCE

ONE TRUE CHAMPION

ACC ATLANTIC COAST PREVIEW

JAMEIS WINSTON, FLORIDA STATE

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

ATLANTIC

1. FLORIDA STATE **SEMINOLES** 13-0, 8-0 ACC
2. CLEMSON **TIGERS** 9-3, 7-1 ACC
3. LOUISVILLE **CARDINALS** 8-4, 5-3 ACC
4. SYRACUSE **ORANGE** 6-6, 3-5 ACC
5. BOSTON COLLEGE **EAGLES** 6-6, 3-5 ACC
6. NC STATE **WOLFPACK** 6-6, 2-6 ACC
7. WAKE FOREST **DEMON DEACONS** 3-9, 0-8 ACC

COASTAL

1. VIRGINIA TECH **HOKIES** 9-4, 6-2, ACC
2. MIAMI **HURRICANES** 8-4, 5-3 ACC
3. NORTH CAROLINA **TAR HEELS** 8-4, 5-3 ACC
4. PITTSBURGH **PANTHERS** 8-4, 4-4 ACC
5. DUKE **BLUE DEVILS** 8-4, 4-4 ACC
6. GEORGIA TECH **YELLOW JACKETS** 6-6, 3-5 ACC
7. VIRGINIA **CAVALIERS** 3-9, 1-7 ACC

ACC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME: FLORIDA STATE OVER VIRGINIA TECH

2014 UNIT RANKINGS

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
BOSTON COLLEGE	12	12	13	7	9	11	14
CLEMSON	4	9	5	3	1	2	4
DUKE	3	11	6	4	13	4	6
FLORIDA STATE	1	2	1	1	2	1	1
GEORGIA TECH	10	13	14	12	12	7	7
LOUISVILLE	5	5	2	6	4	8	11
MIAMI	9	1	3	2	6	3	3
NORTH CAROLINA	2	4	4	9	7	10	8
NC STATE	7	7	9	11	10	13	9
PITTSBURGH	6	6	7	8	8	9	13
SYRACUSE	8	8	10	5	11	6	12
VIRGINIA	13	3	11	13	5	5	5
VIRGINIA TECH	11	10	8	10	3	12	2
WAKE FOREST	14	14	12	14	14	14	10

Winston: Peter Brouillet; Johnson: Tom DiPace

2013 ACC STANDINGS

ATLANTIC	ACC	OVERALL	COASTAL	ACC	OVERALL
FLORIDA STATE	8-0	14-0	DUKE	6-2	10-4
CLEMSON	7-1	11-2	VIRGINIA TECH	5-3	8-5
SYRACUSE	4-4	7-6	MIAMI	5-3	9-4
BOSTON COLLEGE	4-4	7-6	GEORGIA TECH	5-3	7-6
MARYLAND	3-5	7-6	NORTH CAROLINA	4-4	7-6
WAKE FOREST	2-6	4-8	PITTSBURGH	3-5	7-6
NC STATE	0-8	3-9	VIRGINIA	0-8	2-10

DUKE JOHNSON, MIAMI

2014 ACC BOWL PROJECTIONS

College Football Playoff Florida State vs. Alabama
Gator Bowl Virginia Tech vs. LSU
Belk Bowl Louisville vs. Mississippi State
Sun Bowl Miami vs. Washington
Pinstripe Bowl North Carolina vs. Nebraska
Military Bowl Pittsburgh vs. Cincinnati
Independence Bowl Duke vs. Utah
St. Petersburg Bowl Georgia Tech vs. South Florida
Detroit Bowl Syracuse vs. Northwestern

2013 ACC BOWL RESULTS

Little Caesars Pizza Bowl Pittsburgh 30, Bowling Green 27
Military Bowl Marshall 31, Maryland 20
Texas Bowl Syracuse 21, Minnesota 17
Belk Bowl North Carolina 39, Cincinnati 17
Russell Athletic Bowl Louisville, 36 Miami 9
Music City Bowl Ole Miss 25, Georgia Tech 17
AdvoCare V100 Bowl Arizona 42, Boston College 19
Sun Bowl UCLA 42, Virginia Tech 12
Chick-fil-A Bowl Texas A&M 52, Duke 48
Orange Bowl Clemson 40, Ohio State 35
BCS National Championship Florida State 34, Auburn 31

RECRUITING BY SCHOOL

1. Florida State 2. Miami 3. Clemson 4. Virginia Tech 5. North Carolina 6. Virginia 7. NC State 8. Pittsburgh 9. Louisville 10. Syracuse 11. Boston College 12. Georgia Tech 13. Duke 14. Wake Forest

PRESEASON ALL-ACC TEAM

FIRST-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	JAMEIS WINSTON	6-4	235	So.	Florida State
RB	DUKE JOHNSON	5-9	206	Jr.	Miami
RB	KARLOS WILLIAMS	6-1	219	Sr.	Florida State
WR	TYLER BOYD	6-2	185	So.	Pittsburgh
WR	RASHAD GREENE	6-0	178	Sr.	Florida State
TE	NICK O'LEARY	6-3	244	Sr.	Florida State
C	ANDY GALLIK	6-3	299	Sr.	Boston College
G	TRE' JACKSON	6-4	339	Sr.	Florida State
G	LAKEN TOMLINSON	6-3	320	Sr.	Duke
T	CAMERON ERVING	6-6	302	Sr.	Florida State
T	BOBBY HART	6-4	318	Sr.	Florida State

FIRST-TEAM DEFENSE

DE	VIC BEASLEY	6-2	235	Sr.	Clemson
DE	MARIO EDWARDS JR.	6-3	294	Jr.	Florida State
DT	GRADY JARRETT	6-1	295	Sr.	Clemson
DT	LUTHER MADDY	6-1	291	Jr.	Virginia Tech
LB	STEPHONE ANTHONY	6-2	245	Sr.	Clemson
LB	DENZEL PERRYMAN	6-0	242	Sr.	Miami
LB	TERRANCE SMITH	6-4	228	Jr.	Florida State
CB	KENDALL FULLER	5-11	195	So.	Virginia Tech
CB	P.J. WILLIAMS	6-0	196	Jr.	Florida State
S	ANTHONY HARRIS	6-1	190	Sr.	Virginia
S	JALEN RAMSEY	6-1	198	So.	Florida State

FIRST-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	ROBERTO AGUAYO	6-1	209	So.	Florida State
P	A.J. HUGHES	6-1	212	Jr.	Virginia Tech
KR	KERMIT WHITFIELD	5-7	184	So.	Florida State
PR	RYAN SWITZER	5-10	180	So.	North Carolina

SECOND-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	MARQUISE WILLIAMS	6-2	215	Jr.	North Carolina
RB	KEVIN PARKS	5-8	205	Sr.	Virginia
RB	SHADRACH THORNTON	6-1	207	Jr.	NC State
WR	JAMISON CROWDER	5-9	175	Sr.	Duke
WR	DEVANTE PARKER	6-3	209	Sr.	Louisville
TE	BRAXTON DEAVER	6-5	240	Sr.	Duke
C	JAKE SMITH	6-4	312	Sr.	Louisville
G	SHAQUILLE MASON	6-1	311	Sr.	Georgia Tech
G	JOSUE MATIAS	6-6	331	Sr.	Florida State
T	ERECK FLOWERS	6-6	302	Jr.	Miami
T	SEAN HICKEY	6-5	300	Sr.	Syracuse

SECOND-TEAM DEFENSE

DE	ELI HAROLD	6-4	230	Jr.	Virginia
DE	LORENZO MAULDIN	6-4	243	Sr.	Louisville
DT	EDDIE GOLDMAN	6-4	314	Jr.	Florida State
DT	ADAM GOTSIS	6-5	285	Jr.	Georgia Tech
LB	KELBY BROWN	6-2	230	Sr.	Duke
LB	DYSHAWN DAVIS	6-2	221	Sr.	Syracuse
LB	QUAYSHAWN NEALY	6-1	236	Sr.	Georgia Tech
CB	RONALD DARBY	5-11	188	Jr.	Florida State
CB	BRANDON FACYSON	6-2	191	So.	Virginia Tech
S	JEREMY CASH	6-2	210	Jr.	Duke
S	DURELL ESKRIDGE	6-3	203	Jr.	Syracuse

SECOND-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	NIKLAS SADE	6-3	199	Sr.	NC State
P	TOMMY HIBBARD	5-10	190	Sr.	North Carolina
KR	DEVON EDWARDS	5-9	185	So.	Duke
PR	JAMISON CROWDER	5-9	175	Sr.	Duke

BOSTON COLLEGE EAGLES

NATIONAL FORECAST **64**
ACC ATLANTIC PREDICTION **5**

Head Coach: Steve Addazio
Record at School: 7-6 (1 year)
Career Record: 20-17 (3 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Ryan Day
Defensive Coordinator: Don Brown
Chestnut Hill, MA
Alumni Stadium (44,500)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 6-6, 3-5 (ACC)

August	
30	at Massachusetts
September	
5	Pittsburgh
13	USC
20	Maine
27	Colorado State
October	
11	at NC State
18	Clemson
25	at Wake Forest
November	
1	at Virginia Tech
8	Louisville
22	at Florida State
29	Syracuse

2013 RESULTS (7-6, 4-4)

Aug. 31	Villanova	W	24-14
Sept. 6	Wake Forest	W	24-10
Sept. 14	at USC	L	7-35
Sept. 28	Florida State	L	34-48
Oct. 5	Army	W	48-27
Oct. 12	at Clemson	L	14-24
Oct. 26	at North Carolina	L	10-34
Nov. 2	Virginia Tech	W	34-27
Nov. 9	at New Mexico State	W	48-34
Nov. 16	NC State	W	38-21
Nov. 23	at Maryland	W	29-26
Nov. 30	at Syracuse	L	31-34
Dec. 31	vs. Arizona #	L	19-42

#AdvoCare V100 Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Connor Strachan, LB, Wellesley, MA
2. Jonathan Hilliman, RB, Plainfield, NJ
3. Thaddius Smith, ATH, Yeadon, MA
4. Harold Landry, DE, Spring Lake, NC
5. Jon Baker, OL, Millis, MA
6. Darius Wade, QB, Middleton, DE
7. Marcus Outlow, RB, Norwich, CT
8. James Hendren, OL, Medfield, MA
9. Isaac Yiadom, DB, Worcester, MA
10. Gabriel McClary, WR, Orlando, FL

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	ACC	National
Scoring	27.7 ppg	7	70
Rushing	212.5 ypg	2	20
Passing	154.8 ypg	13	112
Total	367.2 ypg	11	92
Defense	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
Scoring	28.9 ppg	12	77
Rushing	160.6 ypg	9	58
Passing	268.4 ypg	14	111
Total	429.0 ypg	14	92
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
+3	+0.2	5	42

OFFENSE Despite the loss of 2,000-yard rusher Andre Williams, Boston College is still committed to the run game. The Eagles won't replace Williams with one player. A committee will work, led by sophomore Myles Willis, a versatile back coming off a 346-yard freshman season.

Quarterback Tyler Murphy didn't transfer from Florida to be a backup. The senior has one last chance to cement a winning career. The job to replace the steady yet unspectacular Chase Rettig is his to lose. Murphy went 2–4 as a starter in 2013 but played on an awful Florida team, completing 60.5 percent of his passes for 1,216 yards.

Wideout is easily the team's biggest void on offense. With Alex Amidon gone, the Eagles lose a player who was responsible for more than 50 percent of his team's production at the position. Harrison Jackson, arguably the top returning wideout, tore his ACL in spring ball. The Eagles need Drew Barksdale, quarterback-turned receiver Josh Bordner or Charlie Callinan to emerge as reliable targets.

The strength of the offensive line starts in the middle after losing bookend tackles Matt Patchan and Ian White.

DEFENSE Boston College's defense usually starts with solid linebacker play, but the Eagles lose two good ones in Kevin Pierre-Louis and Steele Divitto. Good thing Steven Daniels, who finished the year with 88 tackles, is back. Boston College likes to rush the passer from the linebacker spot, and returner Josh Keyes (3.5 sacks as a reserve) will help in that area.

The defensive line is still relatively deep despite the loss of two starters, including All-ACC third team performer Kasim Edebali (9.5 sacks). Many returning linemen have played valuable snaps and showed potential but have yet to do it on a full-time basis. Defensive end Malachi Moore is a 6'7" sophomore who is a candidate to break out in 2014. Mehdi Abdesmad had 3.5 tackles for a loss before injuries derailed his 2013 campaign.

Don't expect BC to finish last in the ACC in pass defense again. The Eagles return all four starters in the secondary, including potential star Dominique Williams. Corners Manny Asprilla and Bryce Jones each recorded two interceptions last year.

STAT CORNER

26

Runs from scrimmage of at least 20 yards by departed tailback Andre Williams, most in the nation. Nobody else had more than 21. He will be greatly missed.

SPECIALISTS The loss of kicker/punter Nate Freese, the school record-holder for field goals (70) and points (324), can't be understated. The All-American made 86.4 percent of his attempts. Alex Howell steps in as the new placekicker, and he'll also punt. David Dudeck should have the inside track on the kick return job after doing a serviceable job last year (15.6-yard average).

FINAL ANALYSIS Steve Addazio was responsible for one of the more underrated coaching jobs last year, boosting Boston College from two to seven wins in his debut season by packaging a power-run attack around Williams. Addazio's creativity could be tested even more in 2014 since nearly all of the Eagles' all-conference performers from a year ago are gone. Boston College is counting on the young players left over from the Frank Spaziani era and Addazio's first two recruiting classes to form the Eagles' identity.

The running game and solid line play will always be Boston College staples, but how will the Eagles stretch the field? They'll need at least one or two young wide receivers to grow up in a hurry. The defense has a chance to improve after last year's unit under coordinator Don Brown was opportunistic but not overwhelming in any one area.

A return to a bowl game is a realistic expectation, but the Eagles aren't likely to pose much of a threat to the top teams in the ACC Atlantic Division.

STEVEN DANIELS

Paul Connors

THE QUOTE

"They have an M.O. — don't turn the ball over, play tough and keep the game tight. They were in it with FSU and Clemson a year ago."

— An opposing ACC assistant coach

OFFENSE (3)

WR	37	Drew Barksdale (So.)		Thaddius Smith (Fr.)
WR	8	Josh Bordner (Sr.)	26	David Dudeck (Jr.)
WR	32	Charlie Callinan (Fr.)	10	Bobby Swigert (Sr.)
LT	67	Seth Betancourt (Sr.)	74	Dave Bowen (Jr.)
LG	**76**	**Bobby Vardaro (Sr.)**	77	Jon Baker (Fr.)
C	**59**	**Andy Gallik (Sr.)**	69	Paul Gaughan (Jr.)
RG	**64**	**Harris Williams (Sr.)**	72	Jim Cashman (So.)
RT	75	Ian Silberman (Sr.)	70	Aaron Kramer (Sr.
TE	88	Michael Giacone (Jr.)	81	Louie Addazio (Jr.)
QB	2	Tyler Murphy (Sr.)	4	Darius Wade (Fr.)
RB	23	Myles Willis (So.)	35	Tyler Rouse (So.)

DEFENSE (6)

DE	93	Kevin Kavalec (So.)	99	Brian Mihalik (Sr.)
DT	45	Mehdi Abdesmad (Sr.)	**90**	**Connor Wujciak (Jr.)**
DT	97	Truman Gutapfel (So.)	48	Nick Lifka (Jr.)
DE	87	Malachi Moore (So.)	78	Harold Landry (Fr.)
LB	**52**	**Steven Daniels (Jr.)**		Connor Strachan (Fr.)
LB	28	Matt Milano (So.)		Ty Schwab (Fr.)
LB	25	Josh Keyes (Sr.)	34	Sean Duggan (Sr.)
CB	**17**	**Bryce Jones (Jr.)**	6	C.J. Jones (Sr.)
CB	**21**	**Manuel Asprilla (Sr.)**	20	Isaac Yiadom (Fr.)
S	**9**	**Dominique Williams (Sr.)**	27	Justin Simmons (Jr.)
S	**19**	**Sean Sylvia (Sr.)**	43	John Johnson (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	42	Alex Howell (Jr.)	KR 26	David Dudeck (Jr.)
P	42	Alex Howell (Jr.)	PR 17	Bryce Jones (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Josh Bordner, 4-2-17-0, 0 TDs
Rushing: Myles Willis, 60 att., 346 yds., 2 TDs
Receiving: David Dudeck, 11 rec., 84 yds., 1 TD
Tackles: Steven Daniels, 88
Sacks: Josh Keyes, 3.5
Interceptions: Manuel Asprilla, 2; Bryce Jones, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

CLEMSON TIGERS

NATIONAL FORECAST **21**
ACC ATLANTIC PREDICTION **2**

Head Coach: Dabo Swinney
Record at School: 51-23 (5+ years)
Career Record: 51-23 (5+ years)
Offensive Coordinator: Chad Morris
Defensive Co-Coordinators: Marion Hobby, Brent Venables
Clemson, SC
Clemson Memorial Stadium (81,500)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 9-3, 7-1 (ACC)

August	
30	at Georgia
September	
6	South Carolina State
20	at Florida State
27	North Carolina
October	
4	NC State
11	Louisville
18	at Boston College
25	Syracuse
November	
6	at Wake Forest
15	at Georgia Tech
22	Georgia State
29	South Carolina

2013 RESULTS (11-2, 7-1)

Aug. 31	Georgia	W	38–35
Sept. 7	South Carolina State	W	52–13
Sept. 19	at NC State	W	26–14
Sept. 28	Wake Forest	W	56–7
Oct. 5	at Syracuse	W	49–14
Oct. 12	Boston College	W	24–14
Oct. 19	Florida State	L	14–51
Oct. 26	at Maryland	W	40–27
Nov. 2	at Virginia	W	59–10
Nov. 14	Georgia Tech	W	55–31
Nov. 23	The Citadel	W	52–6
Nov. 30	at South Carolina	L	17–31
Jan. 3	vs. Ohio State #	W	40–35

#Orange Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Deshaun Watson, QB, Gainesville, GA
2. Artavis Scott, WR, Oldsmar, FL
3. Trevion Thompson, WR, Durham, NC
4. Korie Rogers, LB, Flowery Branch, GA
5. Demarre Kitt, WR, Fayetteville, GA
6. Richard Yeargin III, LB/DE, Lauderdale Lakes, FL
7. Adam Choice, RB, Thomasville, GA
8. Cannon Smith, TE, Columbia, SC
9. Chris Register, LB, Greensboro, NC
10. Kyrin Priester, WR, Lilburn, GA

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	ACC	National
Scoring	40.2 ppg	2	8
Rushing	174.6 ypg	6	56
Passing	333.1 ypg	1	9
Total	507.7 ypg	2	10
Defense	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
Scoring	22.2 ppg	3	24
Rushing	155.7 ypg	8	52
Passing	201.0 ypg	3	16
Total	356.7 ypg	3	25
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
+6	+0.5	3	29

OFFENSE This fall, change is the biggest constant for Clemson's offense. Sure, offensive coordinator Chad Morris, the man behind the hurry-up, no-huddle, high-tempo system that averaged 40.2 points and 507.7 yards per game in 2013, is back for his fourth season running the Tigers' offense. But most of the key weapons that fueled that run are gone. Quarterback Tajh Boyd, the ACC's second-leading all-time passer, graduated. Gamebreaking wideout Sammy Watkins left early for the NFL, and standout deep threat Martavis Bryant followed. Rod McDowell, a 1,000-yard rusher, also graduated, leaving the Tigers in the unenviable position of replacing their top passer, rusher and top two receivers.

However, Clemson has recruited well and believes in reloading, not rebuilding. Steady senior quarterback Cole Stoudt (79.7 percent completion rate in 2013) ended spring leading true freshman DeShaun Watson in the race to replace Boyd. That followed Chad Kelly's post-spring dismissal after a spring-game sideline blowup, the last straw in what coach Dabo Swinney called "a pattern of behavior that was not consistent with the values of our program."

Sophomore wideout Mike Williams has drawn comparisons to former NFL first-round pick DeAndre Hopkins, and senior Adam Humphries is a steady presence. Coaches are high on a trio of freshman early enrollees: Demarre Kitt, Kyrin Priester and Artavis Scott.

If a lead back can emerge from the pack of junior Zac Brooks, senior D.J. Howard and redshirt freshman Wayne Gallman, and the new receivers are capable, the Tigers will be dangerous.

STAT CORNER

8.2

Average yards to go for the Clemson defense on third down in 2013, second-most in the country. The Tigers excelled in the pass rush, and their opponents were in passing downs quite often.

DEFENSE Entering his third season, defensive co-coordinator Brent Venables has turned Clemson's defense from a liability into a strength. Venables' defense is smart and aggressive and knows its assignments.

The core of that defense returns, highlighted by most of the defensive line two-deep. Senior end Vic Beasley (13 sacks as a junior) is one of the nation's top pass-rushers, a consensus All-American who turned down a chance to enter the NFL Draft. Senior defensive tackle Grady Jarrett is a run-stuffer and underrated talent.

The Tigers' linebackers are also deeper than when Venables arrived three years ago. Senior Stephone Anthony is the leading returning tackler, with 131 tackles (13.5 for loss) and four sacks. He rebounded from a disappointing sophomore year to become a defensive leader, fierce tackler and impressive presence in the middle of the field. Former five-star recruit Tony Steward appears primed to step in for graduated senior Spencer Shuey (119 tackles in 2013).

In the secondary, Clemson will miss junior cornerback Bashaud Breeland, a gritty player who left early for the NFL Draft. But senior Martin Jenkins showed toughness in playing through wrist and shoulder injuries and is an excellent cover man, and touted redshirt freshman Mackensie Alexander appears primed for a breakthrough.

SPECIALISTS With the departure of kicker Chandler Catanzaro, Clemson must replace the ACC's No. 2 all-time scorer. Junior Ammon Lakip, who left the program briefly last summer, has a strong leg and is the favorite to replace Catanzaro. Junior Bradley Pinion is consistent and has a booming leg.

FINAL ANALYSIS Clemson has established itself as one of the nation's most consistent programs with three consecutive 10-win seasons and back-to-back 11-win seasons. But the Tigers have yet to solve rivals Florida State and South Carolina, going 0–4 against them in the past two years. Swinney and Co. have a stingy, improving defense and the talent to replace major offensive losses, but it's hard to see how this group could take the leap from consistent program to national title contender this fall.

Paul Levy

VIC BEASLEY

THE QUOTE

"Vic Beasley is a premier player in pass rush, just good enough in run game, not great. They position him well and have a good scheme."

— An opposing ACC assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	**13**	**Adam Humphries (Sr.)**	3	Artavis Scott (Fr.)
WR	19	Charone Peake (Jr.)	17	Kyrin Priester (Fr.)
WR	7	Mike Williams (So.)	8	Demarre Kitt (Fr.)
LT	79	Isaiah Battle (Jr.)	69	Maverick Morris (Fr.)
LG	**68**	**David Beasley (Sr.)**	78	Eric Mac Lain (Jr.)
C	**58**	**Ryan Norton (Jr.)**	57	Jay Guillermo (So.)
RG	**67**	**Kalon Davis (Sr.)**	77	Reid Webster (Sr.)
RT	76	Shaq Anthony (Jr.)	73	Joe Gore (Jr.)
TE	**81**	**Stanton Seckinger (Jr.)**	16	Jordan Leggett (So.)
QB	18	Cole Stoudt (Sr.)	4	DeShaun Watson (Fr.)
RB	24	Zac Brooks (Jr.)	22	D.J. Howard (Sr.)

DEFENSE (6)

DE	**3**	**Vic Beasley (Sr.)**	90	Shaq Lawson (So.)
DT	**50**	**Grady Jarrett (Sr.)**	48	D.J. Reader (Jr.)
DT	99	DeShawn Williams (Sr.)	91	Josh Watson (Sr.)
DE	**93**	**Corey Crawford (Sr.)**	9	Tavaris Barnes (Sr.)
SAM	**11**	**Travis Blanks (Jr.)**	41	T.J. Burrell (So.)
MLB	**42**	**Stephone Anthony (Sr.)**	10	Ben Boulware (So.)
WILL	7	Tony Steward (Sr.)	52	Kellen Jones (Jr.)
CB	14	Martin Jenkins (Sr.)	26	Garry Peters (Sr.)
CB	2	Mackensie Alexander (Fr.)	29	Marcus Edmond (Fr.)
S	**27**	**Robert Smith (Sr.)**	12	Korrin Wiggins (So.)
S	20	Jayron Kearse (So.)	18	Jadar Johnson (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	36	Ammon Lakip (Jr.)	**KR** 15	T.J. Green (So.)
P	92	Bradley Pinion (Jr.)	**PR** 13	Adam Humphries (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Cole Stoudt, 59-47-415-0, 5 TDs
Rushing: Zac Brooks, 48 att., 246 yds., 2 TDs
Receiving: Adam Humphries, 41 rec., 483 yds., 2 TDs
Tackles: Stephone Anthony, 131
Sacks: Vic Beasley, 13
Interceptions: Jayron Kearse, 4

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

FLORIDA STATE SEMINOLES

NATIONAL FORECAST 1
ACC ATLANTIC PREDICTION 1

Head Coach: Jimbo Fisher
Record at School: 45-10 (4 years)
Career Record: 45-10 (4 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Jimbo Fisher
Defensive Coordinator: Charles Kelly
Tallahassee, FL
Doak Campbell Stadium (82,300)

2014 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 13-0, 8-0 (ACC)

August	
30	vs. Oklahoma State #
September	
6	The Citadel
20	Clemson
27	at NC State
October	
4	Wake Forest
11	at Syracuse
18	Notre Dame
30	at Louisville
November	
8	Virginia
15	at Miami
22	Boston College
29	Florida

#Arlington, TX

2013 RESULTS (14-0, 8-0)

Sept. 2	at Pittsburgh	W	41–13
Sept. 14	Nevada	W	62–7
Sept. 21	Bethune-Cookman	W	54–6
Sept. 28	at Boston College	W	48–34
Oct. 5	Maryland	W	63–0
Oct. 19	at Clemson	W	51–14
Oct. 26	NC State	W	49–17
Nov. 2	Miami	W	41–14
Nov. 9	at Wake Forest	W	59–3
Nov. 16	Syracuse	W	59–3
Nov. 23	Idaho	W	80–14
Nov. 30	at Florida	W	37–7
Dec. 7	vs. Duke %	W	45–7
Jan. 6	vs. Auburn #	W	34–31

%Charlotte #BCS National Championship

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Dalvin Cook, RB, Miami, FL
2. Ermon Lane, WR, Homestead, FL
3. Travis Rudolph, WR, West Palm Beach, FL
4. Jacob Pugh, LB, Tallahassee, FL
5. Kain Daub, LB, Jacksonville, FL
6. Derrick Nnadi, DT Virginia Beach, FL
7. Roderick Johnson, OL, Florissant, MO
8. Demarcus Christmas, DT, Bradenton, FL
9. Delvin Purifoy, LB Pensacola, FL
10. Chad Mavety, OL, Sparta, NJ*

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	ACC	National
Scoring	51.6 ppg	1	2
Rushing	203.1 ypg	3	28
Passing	315.9 ypg	2	14
Total	519.1 ypg	1	6
Defense	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
Scoring	12.1 ppg	1	1
Rushing	124.8 ypg	3	18
Passing	156.6 ypg	1	1
Total	281.4 ypg	1	3
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
+17	1.2	1	3

OFFENSE Sophomore quarterback Jameis Winston, who was a runaway winner of the Heisman Trophy and a slew of other awards, is back again to lead the offense, and he will operate behind an experienced and talented offensive line. All five starters will be seniors, including All-America candidates Cameron Erving and Tre' Jackson, and the only "newcomer" is center Austin Barron, who has been a part-time starter in the past.

The Seminoles are replacing their first- and second-string tailbacks and their starting fullback from a year ago, but no one in their camp seems concerned. That's largely because of the excitement surrounding converted defensive back Karlos Williams, who racked up 730 yards and 11 touchdowns while averaging 8.0 yards per carry as a third-teamer in 2013. Speedy backups Mario Pender, Ryan Green and true freshman Dalvin Cook give the Seminoles a group of potential home-run hitters off the bench.

When Winston drops back to pass, he will have back his two favorite targets — senior wide receiver Rashad Greene and senior tight end Nick O'Leary. Greene led FSU in receiving as a freshman, sophomore and junior, and has a chance to be the most productive receiver in school history. O'Leary led all tight ends nationally with 16.9 yards per reception, and he was one of three finalists for the John Mackey Award.

The biggest loss on offense was 6'5" receiver Kelvin Benjamin, who led the team with 15 touchdown receptions, including the game-winner in the national championship game.

STAT CORNER

3.6

Florida State's per-play yardage margin in 2013. Not only was that the best in the country, but it was also 22 percent better than No. 2.

DEFENSE The Seminoles will have a challenge replacing five of their top six tacklers from a year ago, including superb defensive tackle Timmy Jernigan and emotional leaders Telvin Smith at linebacker and Lamarcus Joyner at defensive back. But few programs have recruited as well defensively over the past four years.

Junior defensive end Mario Edwards blossomed in 2013, displaying the talent that made him the *USA Today* National Defensive Player of the Year as a senior in high school, and he will be joined by a slew of powerful and athletic defensive linemen. The lone returning starter at linebacker is junior Terrance Smith, but he is a good one. It was his ascension to the starting lineup that helped spur FSU's defensive turnaround after a bumpy start in 2013.

And the Seminoles couldn't be more confident about their secondary, despite losing two starters, including a unanimous All-American in Joyner. Sophomore Jalen Ramsey, who started as a true freshman at both cornerback and safety last season, is expected to take over where Joyner left off.

SPECIALISTS Though overshadowed at times by his classmate at quarterback, placekicker Roberto Aguayo received his just due during the postseason when he snared the Lou Groza Award as the nation's top kicker. The Seminoles are not quite as loaded at punter, where junior Cason Beatty returns after averaging 41.1 yards per attempt. For all of FSU's successes in 2013, the Noles ranked next to last among ACC teams in net punting. Beatty was shaky again in the spring game, leading to speculation that he would have to win the job again in preseason camp. FSU's return game likely will be led by Kermit Whitfield, whose 100-yard touchdown return against Auburn in the national championship game was essential to the Seminoles' comeback.

FINAL ANALYSIS Despite losing several key pieces from the 2013 national championship team, Florida State has more than enough talent to make another run this fall. The keys will be staying healthy on the offensive line, where the Seminoles have almost no experienced depth, and rekindling the competitive fire that drove them to that undefeated season.

JAMEIS WINSTON

Tom DiPace/Athlon Sports

THE QUOTE

"You have to tackle well and pressure the quarterback (Jameis Winston), force him to throw some interceptions, which he doesn't do a lot."

— An opposing ACC assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	**80**	**Rashad Greene (Sr.)**	12	Jarred Haggins (Sr.)
WR	3	Jesus Wilson (Fr.)	89	Christian Green (Sr.)
LT	**75**	**Cameron Erving (Sr.)**	78	Wilson Bell (Fr.)
LG	**70**	**Josue Matias (Sr.)**	72	Kareem Are (Jr.)
C	62	Austin Barron (Sr.)	59	Ryan Hoefeld (Fr.)
RG	**54**	**Tre' Jackson (Sr.)**	65	Ruben Carter (Jr.)
RT	**51**	**Bobby Hart (Sr.)**		Chad Mavety (Jr.)
TE	**35**	**Nick O'Leary (Sr.)**	33	Kevin Haplea (Sr.)
QB	**5**	**Jameis Winston (So.)**	10	Sean Maguire (So.)
FB	23	Freddie Stevenson (So.)	28	Nigel Terrell (Sr.)
RB	9	Karlos Williams (Sr.)	7	Mario Pender (So.)

DEFENSE (6)

DE	**15**	**Mario Edwards Jr. (Jr.)**	44	DeMarcus Walker (So.)
DT	**90**	**Eddie Goldman (Jr.)**	95	Keith Bryant (Fr.)
DT	99	Nile Lawrence-Stample (Jr.)	43	Desmond Hollin (Sr.)
DE	21	Chris Casher (So.)	18	Ro'Derrick Haskins (Fr.)
LB	**24**	**Terrance Smith (Jr.)**	10	E.J. Levenberry (So.)
LB	6	Matthew Thomas (Fr.)		Kain Daub (Fr.)
LB	5	Reggie Northrup (Jr.)	52	Ukeme Eligwe (So.)
CB	**26**	**P.J. Williams (Jr.)**	6	Nick Waisome (Sr.)
CB	**3**	**Ronald Darby (Jr.)**	37	Keelin Smith (Jr.)
S	**8**	**Jalen Ramsey (So.)**	42	Lamarcus Brutus (Jr.)
S	1	Tyler Hunter (Jr.)	29	Nate Andrews (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	19	Robert Aguayo (So.)	**KR**	8	Kermit Whitfield (So.)
P	38	Cason Beatty (Jr.)	**PR**	80	Rashad Greene (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Jameis Winston, 384-257-4,057-10, 40 TDs
Rushing: Karlos Williams, 91 att., 730 yds., 11 TDs
Receiving: Rashad Greene, 76 rec., 1,128 yds., 9 TDs
Tackles: Terrance Smith, 59
Sacks: Mario Edwards Jr., 3.5
Interceptions: Nate Andrews, 4

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

LOUISVILLE CARDINALS

NATIONAL FORECAST 28
ACC ATLANTIC PREDICTION 3

Head Coach: Bobby Petrino
Record at School: 41-9 (4 years)
Career Record: 83-30 (9 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Garrick McGee
Defensive Coordinator: Todd Grantham
Louisville, KY
Papa John's Cardinal Stadium (55,000)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 8-4, 5-3 (ACC)

September	
1	Miami
6	Murray State
13	at Virginia
20	at FIU
27	Wake Forest
October	
3	at Syracuse
11	at Clemson
18	NC State
30	Florida State
November	
8	at Boston College
22	at Notre Dame
29	Kentucky

2013 RESULTS (12-1, 7-1)

Sept. 1	Ohio	W	49–7
Sept. 7	Eastern Kentucky	W	44–7
Sept. 14	at Kentucky	W	27–13
Sept. 21	FIU	W	72–0
Oct. 5	at Temple	W	30–7
Oct. 10	Rutgers	W	24–10
Oct. 18	UCF	L	35–38
Oct. 26	at South Florida	W	34–3
Nov. 8	at Connecticut	W	31–10
Nov. 16	Houston	W	20–13
Nov. 23	Memphis	W	24–17
Dec. 5	at Cincinnati (ot)	W	31–24
Dec. 28	vs. Miami #	W	36–9

#Russell Athletic Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Reggie Bonnafon, QB, Louisville, KY
2. Michael Johnson, S, Miami Gardens, FL
3. Sharieff Rhaheed-Muhammed, LB, Fort Pierce, FL
4. L.J. Scott, RB, Marion, OH
5. De'Eric Culver, DB, Tallahassee, FL
6. Lukayus McNeil, OL, Indianapolis, IN
7. Trevon Young, LB, Des Moines, IA*
8. Terry Ramsey, DE, Clayton, OH
9. Cameron Polk, WR, Fishers, IN
10. Henry Famurewa, LB, Powder Springs, GA

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	AAC	National
Scoring	35.2 ppg	1	25
Rushing	146.8 ypg	4	86
Passing	314.0 ypg	2	16
Total	460.8 ypg	2	28
Defense	**Per Game**	**AAC**	**National**
Scoring	12.2 ppg	1	2
Rushing	80.7 ypg	1	1
Passing	170.8 ypg	1	5
Total	251.5 ypg	1	1
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**AAC**	**National**
+17	+1.3	2	2

OFFENSE Exit Teddy Bridgewater. Enter Bobby Petrino. The first guy was Louisville's dynamic quarterback the last three seasons. The second is the Cardinals' new head coach, a guy with a proven record of putting 40 points on the scoreboard, regardless of his quarterback. That's what Louisville expects now that Petrino has replaced Charlie Strong. The Cardinals lack a tested quarterback. Will Gardner completed eight passes last season. But Petrino smiled broadly after Gardner completed 32-of-37 passes for 542 yards and four touchdowns in Louisville's spring game. The backup spot remains open.

Gardner has every weapon an unproven quarterback could want — halfbacks, wide receivers, tight ends and four returning linemen.

Don't believe the hype that Petrino is a pass-only coach. He isn't. Petrino believes in a power-running game, especially while protecting a lead in the second half. Running back is the deepest pool of talent on the team. Dominique Brown led Louisville with 825 yards last season, but the two most impressive runners during the spring were Auburn transfer Michael Dyer and freshman L.J. Scott.

Petrino is convinced that receiver DeVante Parker is a first-round NFL Draft pick because of his size, speed and sure hands. James Quick, a five-star recruit in 2013, should emerge on the other side. Petrino will create ways to get the ball to Eli Rogers, Kai De La Cruz and tight end Gerald Christian.

Four starters return to what should be one of the better offensive lines in the ACC.

STAT CORNER

3.0

Average points allowed per trip inside the 40-yard line by the Louisville defense, second in the country.

DEFENSE Petrino's biggest recruit on defense was bringing coordinator Todd Grantham from Georgia. The Cards ranked first nationally in total defense and second in scoring defense last season, numbers that will be difficult to replicate with only four returning starters — defensive end Lorenzo Mauldin, linebacker James Burgess and corners Charles Gaines and Terell Floyd.

Grantham will have to rebuild the middle of his defense — both tackles, interior linebackers and both safeties.

"I feel real good about our front seven," Petrino says. "We're going to be good on the interior. Our linebackers are going to be able to play the way we want to play."

Here are the guys who will have to deliver to justify Petrino's confidence: end Sheldon Rankins, nose tackle DeAngelo Brown and linebackers Nick Dawson and Keith Kelsey.

The secondary is a greater concern, because safeties Calvin Pryor and Hakeem Smith were three-year starters, and Jermaine Reve, the only experienced replacement, missed the spring game with a knee injury. Safety is usually a dangerous spot for a freshman or junior-college transfer, but Grantham will take a long look at true freshman Michael Johnson.

SPECIALISTS Strong was more concerned with ball control and field position than long returns. Petrino will change that. Gaines will handle kickoffs, and Quick, a state champion sprinter, is eager to return kickoffs and punts, if Petrino agrees. Placekicker John Wallace has a strong and accurate leg, making 20-of-24 field goals last season, including 11-of-13 from 30 yards or longer. Punter Ryan Johnson dropped 11 kicks inside the 20.

FINAL ANALYSIS New quarterback, new coach, new conference (the ACC), new, more formidable schedule. There's a lot to process for a program that won 23 games as well as the Sugar and Russell Athletic bowls the last two seasons. But Petrino has won everywhere he's coached in college — including a 41–9 record during his first stint at Louisville. If Gardner stays healthy, the Cards have enough weapons to score big on everybody but Florida State, Clemson and Notre Dame. Defense will determine if Louisville can win more than eight.

DEVANTE PARKER

THE QUOTE

"They are very deep after a handful of Charlie Strong recruiting classes. Bobby (Petrino) walks into a nice situation."

— An opposing ACC assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	9	**DeVante Parker (Sr.)**	12	Kai De La Cruz (Sr.)
WR	17	James Quick (So.)	6	Eli Rogers (Sr.)
LT	79	**Jamon Brown (Sr.)**	77	Abraham Garcia (So.)
LG	70	**John Miller (Sr.)**	57	Cameron Fraser (Fr.)
C	53	**Jake Smith (Sr.)**	56	Chandler Bridges (Fr.)
RG	73	Pedro Sibiea (So.)	60	Joe Manley (So.)
RT	74	**Ryan Mack (Jr.)**	78	Aaron Epps (Jr.)
TE	18	**Gerald Christian (Sr.)**	89	Keith Towbridge (So.)
QB	11	Will Gardner (So.)		Pat Thomas (So.)
FB	46	Lamar Atkins (So.)	36	Luke Brohm (Jr.)
RB	10	**Dominique Brown (Sr.)**	26	Michael Dyer (Sr.)

DEFENSE (4)

DE	94	**Lorenzo Mauldin (Sr.)**	98	Sheldon Rankins (Jr.)
NT	97	DeAngelo Brown (Jr.)	90	Johnny Richardson (Fr.)
DE	11	B.J. Dubose (Sr.)	59	Aaron Ahner (Jr.)
OLB	48	Deiontrez Mount (Sr.)	21	James Hearns (Fr.)
ILB	52	Nick Dawson (So.)	55	Keith Kelsey (So.)
ILB	13	**James Burgess (Jr.)**	14	Lyn Clark (Fr.)
OLB	91	Trevon Young (Jr.)	32	Stacy Thomas (Fr.)
CB	19	**Terell Floyd (Sr.)**	36	Kevin Houchins (So.)
CB	3	**Charles Gaines (Jr.)**	15	Andrew Johnson (Sr.)
SS	22	Charles Williams (Fr.)	8	Gerod Holliman (Jr.)
FS	20	Richard Benjamin (Fr.)	27	Jermaine Reve (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	45	John Wallace (Jr.)	KR	3	Charles Gaines (Jr.)
P	8	Ryan Johnson (Sr.)	PR	17	James Quick (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Will Gardner, 12-8-112-0, 2 TDs
Rushing: Dominique Brown, 163 att., 825 yds., 8 TDs
Receiving: DeVante Parker, 55 rec., 885 yds., 12 TDs
Tackles: James Burgess, 72
Sacks: Lorenzo Mauldin, 9.5
Interceptions: Charles Gaines, 5

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Bruce Schwarzman

NC STATE WOLFPACK

NATIONAL FORECAST **65**
ACC ATLANTIC PREDICTION **6**

Head Coach: Dave Doeren
Record at School: 3-9 (1 year)
Career Record: 26-13 (3 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Matt Canada
Defensive Coordinator: Dave Huxtable
Raleigh, NC
Carter-Finley Stadium (57,583)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 6-6, 2-6 (ACC)

August	
30	Georgia Southern
September	
6	Old Dominion
13	at South Florida
20	Presbyterian
27	Florida State
October	
4	at Clemson
11	Boston College
18	at Louisville
November	
1	at Syracuse
8	Georgia Tech
15	Wake Forest
29	at North Carolina

2013 RESULTS (3-9, 0-8)

Aug. 31	Louisiana Tech	W	40–14
Sept. 7	Richmond	W	23–21
Sept. 19	Clemson	L	14–26
Sept. 28	Central Michigan	W	48–14
Oct. 5	at Wake Forest	L	13–28
Oct. 12	Syracuse	L	10–24
Oct. 26	at Florida State	L	17–49
Nov. 2	North Carolina	L	19–27
Nov. 9	at Duke	L	20–38
Nov. 16	at Boston College	L	21–38
Nov. 23	East Carolina	L	28–42
Nov. 30	Maryland	L	21–41

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Kentavius Street, DE, Greenville, NC
2. Jalan McClendon, QB, Charlotte, NC
3. Troy Vincent Jr., CB, Baltimore, MD
4. Justin Jones, DL, Avondale Estates, GA
5. Will Richardson, OL, Burlington, NC
6. Tyler Jones, OL, Stone Mountain, GA
7. Bo Hines, WR, Charlotte, NC
8. Cole Cook, TE, Carrollton, GA
9. Germaine Pratt, S, High Point, NC
10. Jaylen Samuels, RB, Charlotte, NC

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	ACC	National
Scoring	22.8 ppg	10	97
Rushing	162.7 ypg	7	70
Passing	240.8 ypg	7	56
Total	403.5 ypg	7	70
Defense	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
Scoring	30.2 ppg	13	83
Rushing	180.2 ypg	13	81
Passing	219.3 ypg	5	47
Total	399.4 ypg	9	61
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
0	0.0	9	61

OFFENSE Coach Dave Doeren declared quarterback Jacoby Brissett his starter last year, but the Florida transfer had to sit out the season. After juggling quarterbacks through a 3–9 season, Doeren is ready for some stability and production at the most important position. NC State's starting quarterbacks combined to throw 11 touchdowns and 15 interceptions last season, numbers Brissett will be counted on to improve significantly.

Junior running back Shadrach Thornton, who ran for 173 yards and two touchdowns against Florida State's stout defense, and senior receiver Bryan Underwood will be counted on to make plays for Brissett. So will freshman receiver Bo Hines, one of nine early enrollees and a standout in the spring game. "I like him a lot," Brissett says. "He can catch the ball and make plays."

NC State ranked 70th in total offense (403.5 ypg) and 97th in scoring (22.8 ppg) in 2013. To make a significant improvement, the offensive line will have to get better. Junior Joe Thuney showed versatility last season, moving from center to left tackle, and now he will slide over to left guard to make room for the return of Rob Crisp, who missed all but two games last year with a concussion.

DEFENSE With so many spread teams in the ACC, Doeren and second-year coordinator Dave Huxtable are switching to a base nickel defense with five defensive backs and two linebackers. Given the problems at linebacker — the drop-off since sending three linebackers to the NFL in 2010 and '11 has been alarming — the decision makes sense, especially if the young secondary can develop ahead of schedule.

Starters Juston Burris (corner), Jack Tocho (corner) and Hakim Jones (safety) give the Wolfpack three experienced options. Redshirt freshman Josh Jones was one of the best players during the spring and will be counted on to help at safety, especially in the tackling department.

In the middle, junior M.J. Salahuddin takes over for Robert Caldwell (105 tackles). Seniors Rodman Noel and Brandon Pittman both figure to contribute from the outside slot.

The Wolfpack have plenty of experienced options up front with seniors T.Y. McGill and Thomas Teal in the middle (39 starts between them), and senior Art Norman and junior Mike Rose back at end for another season. But Doeren might be most excited about the new additions to the defensive front. Freshman end Kentavius Street was the top-rated defensive player in the state and a four-star prospect by Rivals. Freshman tackle B.J. Hill enrolled early and won a starting job, over the veteran Teal.

SPECIALISTS Seniors Nik Sade (kicker) and Wil Baumann (punter) have started since their freshman seasons. They've both made progress, especially over the last year, and will be counted on again. Sade, in particular, was a bright spot on the season with a career-best 19 field goals, and he made a career-best 82.6 percent of his kicks. There was never any consistency to the return game, and Doeren will try a combination of players to make strides.

FINAL ANALYSIS Little went right for Doeren in his first season. The Wolfpack lost their final eight games and went winless in ACC play for the first time since 1959. But with Brissett and a staggering 51 new true or redshirt freshmen on the roster, Doeren's hoping the only way to go is up. With a manageable schedule, especially out of the league, there might be a way to speed up the rebuilding process and get back to a bowl game.

After such a poor finish in 2013, the Wolfpack do have motivation on their side.

"We want to make people forget last year," Underwood says. "This is us now, we're a new team."

STAT CORNER

5.6

Average gain for NC State on first down, 83rd in the country. It's not good to fall behind schedule with a young offense.

BRYAN UNDERWOOD

Grant Halverson

THE QUOTE

"They were pretty weak everywhere, save maybe specialists, because it was such a rebuilding job."

— An opposing ACC assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	80	Bryan Underwood (Sr.)	3	Jumichael Ramos (So.)
WR	82	Bo Hines (Fr.)	30	Gavin Locklear (Fr.)
WR	1	Marquez Valdes-Scantling (So.)	13	Bra'Lon Cherry (So.)
LT	78	Rob Crisp (Sr.)	73	Andy Jomantas (Sr.)
LG	**54**	**Joe Thuney (Jr.)**	70	Terronne Prescod (Fr.)
C	50	Tony Adams (Fr.)	**60**	**Quinton Schooley (Jr.)**
RG	**71**	**Alex Barr (Jr.)**	61	Ali Kassem (Sr.)
RT	**74**	**Tyson Chandler (Sr.)**	72	Patrick Roane (Fr.)
TE	**86**	**David J. Grinnage (So.)**	89	Benson Browne (Jr.)
QB	12	Jacoby Brissett (Jr.)	11	Garrett Leatham (Jr.)
RB	**10**	**Shadrach Thornton (Jr.)**	21	Matt Dayes (So.)

DEFENSE (6)

DE	90	Mike Rose (Jr.)	54	Davion Allred (Fr.)
DT	98	B.J. Hill (Fr.)	**69**	**Thomas Teal (Sr.)**
DT	75	T.Y. McGill (Sr.)	96	Kenton Gibbs (Fr.)
DE	**95**	**Art Norman (Sr.)**		Kentavius Street (Fr.)
LB	42	M.J. Salahuddin (Jr.)	4	Jerod Fernandez (Fr.)
LB	5	Rodman Noel (Sr.)	**39**	**Brandon Pittman (Sr.)**
CB	**11**	**Juston Burris (Jr.)**	30	Malcom Means (Fr.)
CB	**29**	**Jack Tocho (So.)**		Troy Vincent Jr. (Fr.)
S	2	Josh Jones (Fr.)	9	Jarvis Byrd (Sr.)
S	31	Germaine Pratt (Fr.)	6	Tim Buckley (Jr.)
S	**20**	**Hakim Jones (Jr.)**	27	Kalen McCain (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	32	Niklas Sade (Sr.)	KR 15	Johnathan Alston (So.)
P	36	Wil Baumann (Sr.)	PR 82	Bo Hines (Fr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Garrett Leatham, 17-9-146-0, 1 TD
Rushing: Shadrach Thornton, 165 att., 768 yds., 4 TDs
Receiving: Bryan Underwood, 32 rec., 382 yds., 1 TD
Tackles: Brandon Pittman, 62
Sacks: Art Norman, 4.5
Interceptions: Hakim Jones, 2; Jack Tocho, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

SYRACUSE ORANGE

NATIONAL FORECAST **61**
ACC ATLANTIC PREDICTION **4**

Head Coach: Scott Shafer
Record at School: 7-6 (1 year)
Career Record: 7-6 (1 year)
Offensive Coordinator: George McDonald
Defensive Coordinator: Chuck Bullough
Syracuse, N.Y.
Carrier Dome (49,262)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 6-6, 3-5 (ACC)

August	
29	Villanova
September	
13	at Central Michigan
20	Maryland
27	Notre Dame #
October	
3	Louisville
11	Florida State
18	at Wake Forest
25	at Clemson
November	
1	NC State
8	Duke
22	at Pittsburgh
29	at Boston College

#East Rutherford, NJ

2013 RESULTS (7-6, 4-4)

Aug. 31	vs. Penn State %	L	17-23
Sept. 7	at Northwestern	L	27-48
Sept. 14	Wagner	W	54-0
Sept. 21	Tulane	W	52-17
Oct. 5	Clemson	L	14-49
Oct. 12	at NC State	W	24-10
Oct. 19	at Georgia Tech	L	0-56
Nov. 2	Wake Forest	W	13-0
Nov. 9	at Maryland	W	20-3
Nov. 16	at Florida State	L	3-59
Nov. 23	Pittsburgh	L	16-17
Nov. 30	Boston College	W	34-31
Dec. 27	vs. Minnesota #	W	21-17

%East Rutherford #Texas Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. KJ Williams, WR, Bethlehem, PA
2. Chris Slayton, DE, Crete, IL
3. Corey Cooper, WR, Raleigh, NC
4. Wayne Williams, DT, Brooklyn, NY*
5. Jonathan Thomas, LB, Lawrenceville, GA
6. Denzel Ward, OL, Chicago, IL
7. Steve Ishmael, ATH, Miami, FL
8. Alin Edouard, QB, Miami, FL
9. A.J. Long, QB, Lebanon, TN
10. Jamal Custis, WR, Philadelphia, PA

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	ACC	National
Scoring	22.7 ppg	11	98
Rushing	194.8 ypg	4	38
Passing	182.0 ypg	12	102
Total	376.8 ypg	9	85
Defense	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
Scoring	25.4 ppg	8	56
Rushing	137.4 ypg	4	24
Passing	229.8 ypg	9	63
Total	367.2 ypg	6	33
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
+2	+0.2	6	48

OFFENSE It was feast or famine for the Syracuse offense in 2013, as it generated 50-plus points twice in a 13-game season but failed to score 20 six other times. The inconsistency was to be expected considering the team had a new offensive coordinator, a new starting quarterback and untested receivers. It didn't help that the quarterback, Oklahoma transfer Drew Allen, struggled and was benched four games into the season in favor of sophomore Terrel Hunt.

With game experience returning at every position except one interior line spot, and offensive coordinator George McDonald having a year under his belt, the Orange should be poised to improve significantly on last season's mediocre 376.8 yards per game (85th in the nation).

"We want to play faster, that's the biggest thing," McDonald says. "We want to be great at what we do and continue to put pressure on the defense whether it's the run game or the pass game."

Syracuse was better in the run game thanks in large part to the ability of Hunt to run like a power back. He finished with 500 yards rushing and seven TDs, a nice complement to decent passing numbers — 1,638 yards and 10 TDs and a 61.2 completion percentage.

It is the passing game that will determine the unit's fate, as the 2013 team lacked a game-breaking burner. Junior Ashton Broyld (6'3", 223) is an imposing physical presence who set a school record for receptions by a sophomore last season with 52, although none of them went for a score. The team had no receiver surpass 500 yards, let alone approach 1,000.

Coach Scott Shafer hopes one or two of the five incoming freshman receivers can make the jump to FBS ball, because he has a veteran dual-threat quarterback, a deep stable of running backs and an offensive line led by senior tackle Sean Hickey that returns four of five starters.

STAT CORNER

-0.91

Change in Syracuse's offensive yards per play from 2012 to '13, following staff changes and heavy graduation losses. The Orange's 5.11 yards per play ranked No. 11 in the ACC last fall.

DEFENSE Syracuse's Jekyll-Hyde performance on offense was mirrored on defense, as the Orange pitched two shutouts and held five other foes to 17 or fewer points but also yielded at least 48 points four times.

"We want to get better at the details," defensive coordinator Chuck Bullough says. "This season we should be better."

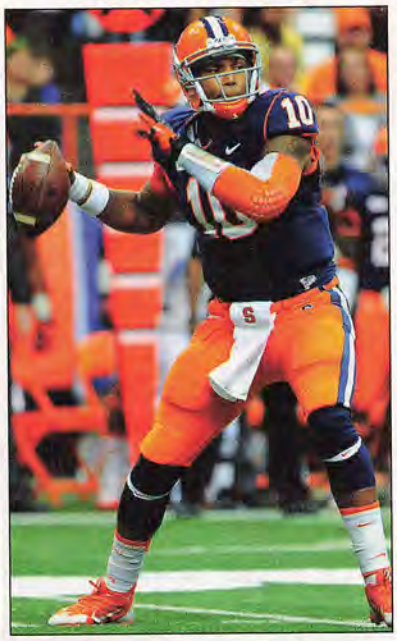
SU must replace star tackle Jay Bromley and middle linebacker Marquis Spruill. The unit will be thin at tackle but has loads of experience returning at end, including starters Robert Welsh and Micah Robinson.

The back seven also has plenty of experience. Whoever wins Spruill's vacant spot at middle linebacker will be flanked by veterans Cam Lynch and Dyshawn Davis. The secondary, led by junior free safety Durell Eskridge (team-leading 78 tackles and four interceptions), will return solid game experience at all four positions.

There are critical holes to fill at tackle and middle linebacker but experience everywhere else, and that should make the Orange defense more Jekyll than Hyde this season.

SPECIALISTS Every key player returns on special teams. Sophomore Brisly Estime, whose 70-yard punt return triggered a Texas Bowl victory over Minnesota, will be a key asset. SU will get a boost if Ross Krautman, the second-most accurate kicker in school history (49-of-63), can return from injury.

FINAL ANALYSIS With numerous returners on each side of the ball and the momentum from the Texas Bowl win over Minnesota, Syracuse is poised to take another step in 2014. Yet the talent gap between the Orange and ACC Atlantic Division members Florida State and Clemson remains huge. Every other game will be a crapshoot, and another upper-division finish and bowl are attainable.



TERREL HUNT

Cal Sport Media via AP Images

THE QUOTE

"The quarterback (Terrel Hunt) was hot and cold throughout the year, but he found his niche late in the season."

— An opposing ACC assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	1	**Ashton Broyld (Jr.)**	2	Quinta Funderburk (Sr.)
WR	88	Jarrod West (Sr.)	82	Alvin Cornelius (So.)
WR	9	Brisly Estime (So.)	13	Corey Winfield (Fr.)
LT	60	**Sean Hickey (Sr.)**	76	Jamar McGloster (So.)
LG	68	**Nick Robinson (Jr.)**	57	Omari Palmer (So.)
C	55	**Rob Trudo (Jr.)**	78	Jason Emerich (So.)
RG	76	Kyle Knapp (So.)	56	John Miller (Sr.)
RT	72	**Ivan Foy (Jr.)**	73	Jon Burton (Fr.)
TE	89	Josh Parris (So.)	87	Kendall Moore (So.)
QB	10	**Terrel Hunt (Jr.)**	5	Austin Wilson (Fr.)
RB	23	Prince-Tyson Gulley (Sr.)	27	George Morris II (So.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	94	**Robert Welsh (Sr.)**	13	Ron Thompson (So.)
DT	52	**Eric Crume (Sr.)**	99	Ryan Sloan (Jr.)
DT	99	Ryan Sloan (Jr.)	55	Marcus Coleman (So.)
DE	93	**Micah Robinson (Sr.)**	51	Donnie Simmons (Jr.)
OLB	35	**Dyshawn Davis (Sr.)**	10	Josh Kirkland (Sr.)
MLB	5	Luke Arciniega (Sr.)	33	Marqez Hodge (So.)
OLB	38	**Cameron Lynch (Sr.)**	49	Alryk Perry (Fr.)
CB	1	Julian Whigham (Jr.)	2	Wayne Morgan (Jr.)
CB	4	**Brandon Reddish (Sr.)**	19	Joe Nassib (Sr.)
SS	6	Ritchy Desir (Sr.)	24	Jaston George (Sr.)
FS	3	**Durell Eskridge (Jr.)**	8	Darius Kelly (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	37	Ross Krautman (Sr.)	KR	23	George Morris II (So.)
P	92	Riley Dixon (Jr.)	PR	9	Brisly Estime (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Terrel Hunt, 273-167-1,638-8, 10 TDs
Rushing: Terrel Hunt, 106 att., 500 yds., 7 TDs
Receiving: Ashton Broyld, 52 rec., 452 yds., 0 TDs
Tackles: Durell Eskridge, 78
Sacks: Cameron Lynch, 4; Robert Welsh, 4
Interceptions: Durell Eskridge, 4

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

WAKE FOREST DEMON DEACONS

NATIONAL FORECAST 85
ACC ATLANTIC PREDICTION 7

Head Coach: Dave Clawson
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: 90-80 (14 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Warren Ruggiero
Defensive Coordinator: Mike Elko
Winston-Salem, NC
BB&T Field (31,500)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 3-9, 0-8 (ACC)

August	
28	at UL Monroe
September	
6	Gardner-Webb
13	at Utah State
20	Army
27	at Louisville
October	
4	at Florida State
18	Syracuse
25	Boston College
November	
6	Clemson
15	at NC State
22	Virginia Tech
29	at Duke

2013 RESULTS (4-8, 2-6)

Aug. 29	Presbyterian	W	31-7
Sept. 6	at Boston College	L	10-24
Sept. 14	UL Monroe	L	19-21
Sept. 21	at Army	W	25-11
Sept. 28	at Clemson	L	7-56
Oct. 5	NC State	W	28-13
Oct. 19	Maryland	W	34-10
Oct. 26	at Miami	L	21-24
Nov. 2	at Syracuse	L	0-13
Nov. 9	Florida State	L	3-59
Nov. 23	Duke	L	21-28
Nov. 30	at Vanderbilt	L	21-23

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Zeek Rodney, DT, Rock Hill, SC
2. Rashawn Shaw, DE, Ft. Pierce, FL
3. Jaylan Barbour, WR, Monroe, NC
4. Justin Herron, OL, Silver Springs, MD
5. Kameron Uter, WR, Atlanta, GA
6. Travis Smith, QB, Ithaca, MI
7. Devin Pike, TE, Cincinnati, OH
8. John Wolford, QB, Jacksonville, FL
9. Jaboree Williams, LB, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
10. Demetrius Kemp, ATH, Demopolis, AL

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	ACC	National
Scoring	18.3 ppg	14	114
Rushing	94.1 ypg	14	116
Passing	196.6 ypg	11	96
Total	290.7 ypg	14	118
Defense	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
Scoring	24.1 ppg	5	38
Rushing	143.2 ypg	5	34
Passing	223.0 ypg	7	51
Total	366.2 ypg	5	32
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
-2	-0.2	11	74

OFFENSE With four-year starter Tanner Price gone, sophomore Tyler Cameron was the only quarterback on the roster until Kevin Sousa was moved from receiver. Sousa, who originally signed with Michigan as a quarterback, may have an edge, because his athleticism lets him make plays when things break down. Both quarterbacks could be passed in the fall by true freshmen Travis Smith (Mr. Football in Michigan) and John Wolford (*Parade* All-American).

The running back situation is scary with Dominique Gibson, who moved from the secondary last year, as the only returning back. Clawson moved Orville Reynolds from receiver and James Ward from safety to fill out the backfield. Reynolds is the shiftiest of the group — "He makes plays," says Clawson — but at 5'9", 185 pounds, he might not be able to take a pounding.

While receiver Michael Campanaro was setting records out of the slot the last two seasons, the Deacons were desperately searching for someone to complement him. True freshman Tyree Harris finally emerged, and big targets Jared Crump (6'3") and Jonathan Williams (6'4") showed flashes as redshirt freshmen. The group will have to find some consistency. The Deacons should be good again in the slot, getting help from E.J. Scott, a graduate transfer from Virginia.

Most of the blame for Wake Forest's recent offensive woes falls on the line. The Deacons averaged less than 100 yards per game rushing, and the passing game was limited to short routes because of poor protection.

STAT CORNER

2001

The last time Wake Forest introduced a new head coach. The Clawson era begins after Jim Grobe's 13-year tenure.

DEFENSE Wake Forest loses five starters along the line and at linebacker, but the new group should make the Deacons more explosive and deeper than they've been in years.

The young defensive linemen were the story of the spring. Sophomores Josh Banks and Shelldon Lewinson gave hope that All-ACC nose tackle Nikita Whitlock could be replaced, and Clawson's move to a speed-rushing end provided an opening for former linebackers Zachary Allen and Wendell Dunn. Along with Duke Ejiofor, they wreaked havoc off the edge.

Brandon Chubb, the team's second-leading tackler, anchors the linebackers, and he'll have an inexperienced group around him. Marquel Lee was a spring standout, and Steve Donatell will try to retain his starting spot after recovering from knee surgery.

The secondary doesn't lack for experience or confidence. "I definitely believe that we can be the best secondary in the country," says Kevin Johnson, who has teamed with fellow senior cornerback Merrill Noel for 60 starts and 11 interceptions. Safety Ryan Janvion is the coach on the field, leading the team in tackles as a redshirt freshman.

SPECIALISTS Kicker Chad Hedlund is accurate but doesn't have a big leg (only 1-of-3 from longer than 44 yards). Junior Alex Kinal already owns the single-season ACC record for most punts, and he could challenge for top five all time by the end of this season. Wake Forest's return teams will need a boost from the new staff after having been at the bottom of the ACC for six years.

FINAL ANALYSIS Jim Grobe led Wake Forest to five bowl games, but after five straight losing seasons, Grobe knew that the program needed new energy. Enter Dave Clawson, fresh off a successful stint at Bowling Green.

Clawson won't have an easy time turning the program around. The offense was the ACC's worst, and gone are the top passer, rusher and receiver. The defense should be the stronger unit, and he may have to rely on creating turnovers to help the offense. His biggest task so far has been to wipe away the losing culture:

"It's definitely a higher standard that they are setting for us, and we couldn't be happier," Janvion says.

RYAN JANVION

THE QUOTE

"Dave Clawson is a good coach; he always has had well-coached teams. They were rough teams — not super talented but tough."

— An opposing ACC assistant coach

OFFENSE (3)

WR	12	Tyree Harris (So.)	86	Brandon Terry (Sr.)
WR	88	Jared Crump (So.)	83	Jonathan Williams (So.)
SL	17	E.J. Scott (Sr.)	18	John Armstrong (So.)
LT	59	Antonio Ford (Sr.)	77	Will Smith (So.)
LG	**78**	**Tyler Hayworth (So.)**		Justin Herron (Fr.)
C	**51**	**Cory Helms (So.)**	60	Nick Luedeke (Fr.)
RG	65	Josh Harris (So.)	71	Hunter Goodwin (Jr.)
RT	**63**	**Dylan Intemann (Jr.)**	79	Cameron Gardner (Fr.)
TE	45	Zach Gordon (So.)	85	Cam Serigne (Fr.)
QB	8	Kevin Sousa (Jr.)	4	Tyler Cameron (So.)
RB	5	Orville Reynolds (Sr.)	14	Dominique Gibson (So.)

DEFENSE (5)

DE	94	Desmond Floyd (Jr.)	53	Duke Ejiofor (Fr.)
DT	58	Josh Banks (So.)	95	Shelldon Lewinson (So.)
DT	91	Johnny Garcia (Sr.)	36	Tylor Harris (Jr.)
DE	35	Zachary Allen (Sr.)	34	Wendell Dunn (Fr.)
LOB	40	Marquel Lee (So.)	39	Jaboree Williams (Fr.)
MLB	**48**	**Brandon Chubb (Jr.)**	28	Teddy Matthews (So.)
ROB	46	Steve Donatell (So.)	**30**	**Hunter Williams (Jr.)**
CB	**9**	**Kevin Johnson (Sr.)**	25	Brad Watson (So.)
CB	**7**	**Merrill Noel (Sr.)**	15	Allen Ramsey (Jr.)
FS	**22**	**Ryan Janvion (So.)**	24	Josh Okonye (Fr.)
SS	11	Anthony Wooding (Sr.)	26	Thomas Brown (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	27	Chad Hedlund (Jr.)	KR	5	Orville Reynolds (Sr.)
P	38	Alex Kinal (Jr.)	PR	88	Jared Crump (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Tyler Cameron, 24-7-85-3, 0 TDs
Rushing: Dominique Gibson, 53 att., 138 yds., 1 TD
Receiving: Tyree Harris, 23 rec., 225 yds., 0 TDs
Tackles: Ryan Janvion, 95
Sacks: 5 players tied with 1
Interceptions: Kevin Johnson, 3; Merrill Noel, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Grant Halverson

DUKE BLUE DEVILS

NATIONAL FORECAST **38**
ACC COASTAL PREDICTION **5**

Head Coach: David Cutcliffe
Record at School: 31-44 (6 years)
Career Record: 75-73 (12 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Scottie Montgomery
Co-Defensive Coordinators:
Jim Collins, Jim Knowles
Durham, NC
Wallace Wade Stadium (33,941)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 8-4, 4-4 (ACC)

August		
30	Elon	
September		
6	at Troy	
13	Kansas	
20	Tulane	
27	at Miami	
October		
11	at Georgia Tech	
18	Virginia	
November		
1	at Pittsburgh	
8	at Syracuse	
15	Virginia Tech	
20	North Carolina	
29	Wake Forest	

2013 RESULTS (10-4, 6-2)

Aug. 31	NC Central	W	45–0
Sept. 7	at Memphis	W	28–14
Sept. 14	Georgia Tech	L	14–38
Sept. 21	Pittsburgh	L	55–58
Sept. 28	Troy	W	38–31
Oct. 12	Navy	W	35–7
Oct. 19	at Virginia	W	35–22
Oct. 26	at Virginia Tech	W	13–10
Nov. 9	NC State	W	38–20
Nov. 16	Miami	W	48–30
Nov. 23	at Wake Forest	W	28–21
Nov. 30	at North Carolina	W	27–25
Dec. 7	vs. Florida State %	L	7–45
Dec. 31	vs. Texas A&M #	L	48–52

%Charlotte #Chick-fil-A Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Trevon Lee, WR, Plantation, FL
2. Alonzo Saxton, CB, Columbus, OH
3. Trip McNeill, OL, Advance, NC
4. Nico Pierre, QB, Miami, FL
5. Taariq Shabazz, DE, Kennesaw, GA
6. Edgar Cerenord, DT, Miami, FL
7. Zach Harmon, OL, Toledo, OH
8. Johnathan Lloyd, ATH, Graham, NC
9. Shaun Wilson, RB, Charlotte, NC
10. Christian Harris, OL, Suwanee, GA

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	ACC	National
Scoring	32.8 ppg	5	41
Rushing	178.0 ypg	5	54
Passing	248.1 ypg	6	50
Total	426.1 ypg	4	47
Defense	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
Scoring	26.6 ppg	9	63
Rushing	174.1 ypg	11	75
Passing	243.9 ypg	11	82
Total	418.0 ypg	12	82
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
+1	+0.1	8	60

OFFENSE Quarterback Anthony Boone was at the controls of a highly productive offense in 2013 (32.8 ppg), but his performance last season was actually quite uneven. There were times, such as the historic win at Virginia Tech, in which the Blue Devils won in spite of Boone. There was talk of a legitimate QB competition in the spring, but that all changed in April, when Brandon Connette — who has been used in more of a Swiss Army knife role in previous seasons — announced his plans to transfer to a school in California to be near his mother, who has brain cancer.

Duke flourished despite erratic play at quarterback because it developed into a highly balanced offense. The Blue Devils ran for 178.0 yards per game in 2013, their highest average since 1977. The four-back rotation that Duke used to pile up those yards took a hit when Jela Duncan was dismissed from school for violating academic policy, but the Blue Devils still have productive options in Josh Snead and Shaquille Powell.

Two starters must be replaced on an offensive line that opened holes and still pass-blocked at the usual high levels (just 17 sacks allowed), but the three most vital parts — left tackle Takoby Cofield, right guard Laken Tomlinson and center Matt Skura — all return.

Duke also gets one more season from arguably its most valuable player, explosive wideout/returner Jamison Crowder, who enjoyed a record-setting season in 2013.

STAT CORNER

-0.49

Duke's per-play yardage margin in nine games against ACC opponents. The Blue Devils were outgained by 0.01 yards per play in ACC regular-season games and by 4.32 yards per play in the title game loss to FSU.

DEFENSE The Duke defense still had its struggles in 2013 (58 points against Pitt?) but it made up for its tendency to give up yards (418.0 per game) with a timely knack for making big plays. The Blue Devils forced the fourth-most turnovers in the ACC (26), led by a ball-hawking secondary that was responsible for 16 of the team's 18 interceptions.

That will have to be the formula again this fall, because Duke still has issues on the defensive line. The Blue Devils had loads of experience there last season, but still not much in the way of production. Now all but one starter on that unit is gone, leaving just defensive tackle Jamal Bruce and a whole lot of question marks.

Fortunately for Duke, the secondary that was the big concern heading into last season is now the source of strength in 2014. Even without All-ACC corner Ross Cockrell, there's plenty of talent in this group, led by tackling machine Jeremy Cash at safety. It may get even better if redshirt freshman Evrett Edwards makes the impact that many expect.

Also expected? Plenty of tackles from Duke's pair of starting linebackers, David Helton and Kelby Brown. Keeping the talented but injury-prone Brown healthy will be key.

SPECIALISTS Perhaps no school in the country is more set on special teams than Duke. The Blue Devils feature All-ACC-caliber performers at kicker (Ross Martin), punter (Will Monday), punt returner (Crowder) and kick returner (DeVon Edwards). Last year, special teams played a critical role in several Duke wins. Expect the same this fall.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Coastal Division race should be wide open again this season, and Duke should be in the thick of it. Thanks to a pillow-soft non-conference schedule, and the absence of Clemson, Florida State and Louisville among Atlantic Division crossover opponents (the Devils get Syracuse and Wake instead), a third straight bowl game seems highly likely for the Blue Devils. A repeat trip to the ACC title game? Duke seemed to catch just about every late-game break in 2013 (for a change). It's hard to envision a repeat of that level of magic again this fall. And the Blue Devils certainly won't be sneaking up on anyone this time around.

JAMISON CROWDER

Grant Halverson/Athlon Sports

THE QUOTE

"Pound-for-pound, they might have been more talented in 2012. But they are great scheme-wise, and they play well together."

— An opposing ACC assistant coach

OFFENSE (8)

WR	17	Isaac Blakeney (Sr.)	10	Ryan Smith (So.)
WR	**87**	**Max McCaffrey (Jr.)**	83	Anthony Nash (So.)
WR	**3**	**Jamison Crowder (Sr.)**	4	Johnell Barnes (So.)
LT	**73**	**Takoby Cofield (Sr.)**	76	Gabe Brandner (Fr.)
LG	67	Lucas Patrick (Jr.)	66	Carson Ginn (Jr.)
C	**62**	**Matt Skura (Jr.)**	50	Austin Davis (Fr.)
RG	**77**	**Laken Tomlinson (Sr.)**	65	Cody Robinson (Jr.)
RT	71	Casey Blaser (So.)	79	Tanner Stone (So.)
TE	**89**	**Braxton Deaver (Sr.)**	80	David Reeves (Jr.)
QB	**7**	**Anthony Boone (Sr.)**	1	Thomas Sirk (So.)
RB	28	Shaquille Powell (Jr.)	**9**	**Josh Snead (Sr.)**

DEFENSE (6)

DE	42	Dezmond Johnson (Sr.)	56	Kyler Brown (Jr.)
DT	**91**	**Jamal Bruce (Sr.)**	93	A.J. Wolf (So.)
NG	98	Carlos Wray (Jr.)	95	Jamal Wallace (Sr.)
DE	94	Jordan DeWalt-Ondijo (Sr.)	34	Jonathan Jones (Sr.)
WLB	**47**	**David Helton (Sr.)**	32	Chris Holmes (Fr.)
MLB	**59**	**Kelby Brown (Sr.)**	54	C.J. France (Sr.)
CB	14	Bryon Fields (So.)	27	DeVon Edwards (So.)
CB	31	Breon Borders (So.)	2	Evrett Edwards (Fr.)
S	**27**	**DeVon Edwards (So.)**	40	Dwayne Norman (Jr.)
S	**33**	**Deondre Singleton (So.)**	37	Phillip Carter (Fr.)
S	**16**	**Jeremy Cash (Jr.)**	26	Corbin McCarthy (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	35	Ross Martin (Jr.)	KR	27	DeVon Edwards (So.)
P	41	Will Monday (Jr.)	PR	3	Jamison Crowder (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Anthony Boone, 322-206-2,260-13, 13 TDs
Rushing: Josh Snead, 107 att., 651 yds., 2 TDs
Receiving: Jamison Crowder, 108 rec., 1,360 yds., 8 TDs
Tackles: David Helton, 133
Sacks: Jordan DeWalt-Ondijo, 2
Interceptions: Jeremy Cash, 4; Breon Borders, 4

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

GEORGIA TECH YELLOW JACKETS

NATIONAL FORECAST **47**
ACC COASTAL PREDICTION **6**

Head Coach: Paul Johnson
Record at School: 48-32 (6 years)
Career Record: 155-71 (17 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Paul Johnson
Defensive Coordinator: Ted Roof
Atlanta, GA
Bobby Dodd Stadium (55,000)

2014 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 6-6, 3-5 (ACC)

August	
30	Wofford
September	
6	at Tulane
13	Georgia Southern
20	at Virginia Tech
October	
4	Miami
11	Duke
18	at North Carolina
25	at Pittsburgh
November	
1	Virginia
8	at NC State
15	Clemson
29	at Georgia

2013 RESULTS (7-6, 5-3)

Aug. 31	Elon		W	70–0
Sept. 14	at Duke		W	38–14
Sept. 21	North Carolina		W	28–20
Sept. 26	Virginia Tech		L	10–17
Oct. 5	at Miami		L	30–45
Oct. 12	at BYU		L	20–38
Oct. 19	Syracuse		W	56–0
Oct. 26	at Virginia		W	35–25
Nov. 2	Pittsburgh		W	21–10
Nov. 14	at Clemson		L	31–55
Nov. 23	Alabama A&M		W	66–7
Nov. 30	Georgia	(ot)	L	34–41
Dec. 30	vs. Ole Miss #		L	17–25

#Music City Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Myles Autry, RB, Norcross, GA
2. Step Durham, CB, Jacksonville, FL
3. C.J. Leggett, RB, Suwanee, GA
4. KeShun Freeman, DE, Hogansville, GA
5. Qua Searcy, WR, Barnesville, GA
6. Andrew Marshall, OL, Cumming, GA
7. Jake Stickler, OT, Bradenton, FL
8. Lawrence Austin, DB, Barnesville, GA
9. Lance Austin, DB, Barnesville, GA
10. Trey Klock, OL, Hummelstown, PA

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	ACC	National
Scoring	35.1 ppg	3	26
Rushing	299.3 ypg	1	6
Passing	130.4 ypg	14	118
Total	429.7 ypg	3	44
Defense	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
Scoring	22.8 ppg	4	29
Rushing	115.8 ypg	2	11
Passing	244.5 ypg	12	83
Total	360.2 ypg	4	27
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
-4	-0.3	12	85

OFFENSE The thought last year was that Georgia Tech's offense could take a jump forward because it had never had a quarterback like Vad Lee — a true dual-threat who could make run-focused defenses pay with his arm. Unfortunately, Lee completed only 46 percent of his passes — not entirely his fault — and had a hard time operating coach Paul Johnson's option offense.

Move forward a year, and a similar thought is being applied to replacement quarterback Justin Thomas. The former state high school sprint champion is the fastest and quickest quarterback that Johnson has had, someone who could make the option offense explosive just with his feet. Last season, mostly in mop-up action, Thomas had 33 carries, and five of them went 20 yards or more.

The question, though, is whether Thomas can make that happen on a consistent basis. He struggled in the spring with his ball-handling and his decision-making with option reads. There's also the matter of whether or not an offensive line that will replace three starters who had combined for 117 career starts can find suitable replacements among a fairly inexperienced lot.

Beyond wide receiver DeAndre Smelter — who joined the football team after a three-year run with the Yellow Jackets' baseball team to become the team's most consistent and dangerous threat in the passing game — Georgia Tech doesn't have a proven pass-catcher. B-back (fullback) Zach Laskey has speed and runs hard behind his pads but has played a backup role the past two seasons. Freshman B-back Travis Custis could be a pleasant surprise.

STAT CORNER

4.9

Average points scored by the Tech offense per trip inside the 40 in 2013, 15th in the country. There are benefits to running an option offense.

DEFENSE Defensively, the Jackets face a similar uncertainty. Six starters are lost, including All-America defensive end Jeremiah Attaochu and defensive back Jemea Thomas, a clutch playmaker.

Georgia Tech will have to find and develop three new starters on the defensive line from a group that couldn't push the starters in 2013. Coordinator Ted Roof would prefer that he have backups who can play and contribute. Whether that happens could determine the course of the season. Key pieces include Jabari Hunt-Days, who has moved from linebacker to the rush end spot vacated by Attaochu; nose tackle and returning starter Adam Gotsis (14.5 tackles for a loss last season); and defensive tackle Shawn Green, who didn't see the field much because of injuries.

There are solid players elsewhere. Linebacker Quayshawn Nealy is a three-year starter with a nose for the ball, and fellow linebacker Tyler Marcordes came on strong in spring practice. At safety, Isaiah Johnson and Jamal Golden missed most or all of last season with injuries, but they bring experience and savvy. Cornerback D.J. White is a star on the rise.

The Jackets also expect to be more comfortable now in the second year under Roof's guidance. Tech improved from 28.3 points per game allowed in 2012 to 22.8 last fall.

SPECIALISTS Kicker Harrison Butker made 10-of-14 field-goal attempts, but he needs to improve on his kickoffs. Punter Ryan Rodwell redshirted last season after playing in six games in the 2012 season. Consistency will be his big challenge. After missing the final 10 games of the season with a shoulder injury, Golden should give a boost as a return specialist. In 2012, he was the only player in the country in the top 12 in both punt and kickoff return average.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Jackets seem stuck around the seven-win mark, almost always competitive but usually falling short against top-tier competition. If all the variables fall their way, this could be a nine-win team that contends for the Coastal Division title. But if Thomas struggles and the defense takes a step back, six or seven wins could be the ceiling.

JUSTIN THOMAS

THE QUOTE

"Defensively, they had a good-looking team. Ted Roof has done a nice job settling that unit down and simplifying things for them."

— An opposing ACC assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	15	**DeAndre Smelter (Sr.)**	88	Darren Waller (Sr.)
WR	84	**Micheal Summers (So.)**	16	Corey Dennis (Sr.)
LT	73	Chris Griffin (Fr.)	75	Errin Joe (Jr.)
LG	78	**Trey Braun (Jr.)**	76	Nick Brigham (So.)
C	58	Freddie Burden (So.)	77	Thomas O'Reilly (Jr.)
RG	70	**Shaquille Mason (Sr.)**	71	Shamire Devine (Fr.)
RT	53	**Bryan Chamberlain (Jr.)**	79	Chase Roberts (So.)
QB	5	Justin Thomas (So.)	18	Tim Byerly (Jr.)
AB	10	**Synjyn Days (Sr.)**	7	B.J. Bostic (Sr.)
AB	3	Dennis Andrews (So.)	31	Deon Hill (Sr.)
BB	37	Zach Laskey (Sr.)	8	Travis Custis (Fr.)

DEFENSE (5)

DE	32	**Jabari Hunt-Days (Jr.)**		Kenderius Whitehead (So.)
NT	96	**Adam Gotsis (Jr.)**	91	Patrick Gamble (So.)
DT	97	Shawn Green (Sr.)	94	Darius Commissiong (Fr.)
DE	99	Tyler Stargel (So.)	41	Roderick Rook-Chungong (So.)
LB	54	**Quayshawn Nealy (Sr.)**	46	Tremayne McNair (Sr.)
LB	35	Tyler Marcordes (Jr.)	40	Paul Davis (So.)
CB	27	Lynn Griffin (So.)	6	Chris Milton (Jr.)
CB	28	**D.J. White (Jr.)**	29	Step Durham (Fr.)
CB	12	**Demond Smith (Jr.)**	23	Domonique Noble (Jr.)
FS	4	Jamal Golden (Jr.)	14	Corey Griffin (Fr.)
SS	1	Isaiah Johnson (Sr.)	13	John Marvin (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	87	Harrison Butker (So.)	KR	4	Jamal Golden (Jr.)
P	85	Ryan Rodwell (So.)	PR	4	Jamal Golden (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Justin Thomas, 17-9-131-2, 1 TD
Rushing: Zach Laskey, 84 att., 485 yds., 7 TDs
Receiving: DeAndre Smelter, 21 rec., 345 yds., 4 TDs
Tackles: Quayshawn Nealy, 66
Sacks: Adam Gotsis, 5.5
Interceptions: 3 players tied with 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Tom DiPace/Athlon Sports

MIAMI HURRICANES

NATIONAL FORECAST 30
ACC COASTAL PREDICTION 2

Head Coach: Al Golden
Record at School: 22-15 (3 years)
Career Record: 49-49 (8 years)
Offensive Coordinator: James Coley
Defensive Coordinator: Mark D'Onofrio
Coral Gables, FL
Sun Life Stadium (74,916)

2014 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 8-4, 5-3 (ACC)

September	
1	at Louisville
6	Florida A&M
13	Arkansas State
20	at Nebraska
27	Duke
October	
4	at Georgia Tech
11	Cincinnati
23	at Virginia Tech
November	
1	North Carolina
15	Florida State
22	at Virginia
29	Pittsburgh

2013 RESULTS (9-4, 5-3)

Aug. 30	Florida Atlantic	W	34-6
Sept. 7	Florida	W	21-16
Sept. 21	Savannah State	W	77-7
Sept. 28	at South Florida	W	49-21
Oct. 5	Georgia Tech	W	45-30
Oct. 17	at North Carolina	W	27-23
Oct. 26	Wake Forest	W	24-21
Nov. 2	at Florida State	L	14-41
Nov. 9	Virginia Tech	L	24-42
Nov. 16	at Duke	L	30-48
Nov. 23	Virginia	W	45-26
Nov. 29	at Pittsburgh	W	41-31
Dec. 28	vs. Louisville #	L	9-36

#Russell Athletic Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Chad Thomas, DE, Miami, FL
2. Joseph Yearby, RB, Miami, FL
3. Trevor Darling, OL, Miami, FL
4. Brad Kaaya, QB, West Hills, CA
5. Anthony Moten, DT, Fort Lauderdale, FL
6. Kiy Hester, DB, Wayne, NJ
7. Trent Harris, DL, Winter Park, FL
8. Demetrius Jackson, DE, Miami, FL
9. Braxton Berrios, WR, Raleigh, NC
10. KC McDermott, OL, Wellington, FL

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	ACC	National
Scoring	33.8 ppg	4	33
Rushing	160.3 ypg	8	72
Passing	265.5 ypg	4	33
Total	425.8 ypg	5	48
Defense	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
Scoring	26.8 ppg	10	65
Rushing	176.5 ypg	12	77
Passing	249.8 ypg	13	90
Total	426.4 ypg	13	89
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
+5	+0.4	4	32

OFFENSE Coordinator James Coley's fast-paced attack averaged 33.8 points and 425.8 yards per game in 2013, but with quarterback Stephen Morris graduating and heir apparent Ryan Williams unlikely to be ready after undergoing April knee surgery, this group has some challenges.

Quarterback Kevin Olsen is working to hold off Gray Crow and freshmen Brad Kaaya and Malik Rosier, but Olsen has no game experience and some accuracy issues. There are some major playmakers at running back and receiver. Lining up in the backfield is one of the nation's most talented backs, first-team All-ACC pick and All-America candidate Duke Johnson. He's recovered from a broken ankle suffered in game eight last year and is looking to build on a season in which he averaged 174 all-purpose yards per game. He'll run behind a solid line that returns three starters, including NFL prospect Ereck Flowers.

At receiver, Allen Hurns is gone after setting a school record with 1,162 yards, and it may be more of a receiver-by-committee approach. But if someone is going to fill Hurns' shoes it will likely be Stacy Coley, who showed game-breaking speed as a freshman with 591 yards and a team-high seven touchdowns. There's solid depth here with Phillip Dorsett, Rashawn Scott and Herb Waters, and tight end Clive Walford is a big target down the middle of the field. Walford was second on the team with 34 receptions last season. This should be one of the ACC's more talented group of pass-catchers.

STAT CORNER

6.8

Miami's offensive yards per play in 2013, ranking 11th in the country. Big plays were huge; mundane plays were a challenge.

DEFENSE Miami must improve dramatically on defense after ranking 13th in the ACC last season, allowing 426.4 yards per game. The Canes struggled to get to the quarterback and had trouble stopping the run — not a good combination.

There are decent playmakers on the defensive line in end Anthony Chickillo and tackle Olsen Pierre, but there isn't anyone here who commands a double-team. Look for five-star signee Chad Thomas and junior college arrival Michael Wyche to make immediate impacts up front.

At linebacker, Denzel Perryman ranked fifth in the ACC with 108 tackles, and he's moving from outside to the middle. On the strong side, coaches have high hopes for Alex Figueroa, who is the team's most physical defender.

The secondary is a solid group led by shutdown corner Tracy Howard and his team-high four interceptions. On the other side, Ladarius Gunter has 17 career starts on his résumé. At safety there's starting experience with Rayshawn Jenkins and Deon Bush. If the line gets pressure, the defensive backs should hold up long enough to make their share of plays.

SPECIALISTS The Canes have to replace punter Pat O'Donnell, who ranked second in the nation with a 47.1-yard average in his only season at Miami. Placekicker Matt Goudis may handle both roles even though he says he prefers not to punt. Goudis showed off a strong leg on field goals last season, making 13-of-17 attempts with a long of 49 yards. The return game will be a strength, as the team ranked No. 2 in the ACC in kick returns (25.1 ypr) and No. 4 in punt returns (11.3 ypr).

FINAL ANALYSIS Ten wins were once the norm at Miami, and now it's a place to set the bar for 2014. The last time UM reached double-digit victories was 2003, and the only way it happens this year is with an improved defense and solid quarterback play. Certainly the pieces are in place on offense for an explosive group, but new faces on both sides of the ball need to make significant impacts for Al Golden's team to reach its goals.

DUKE JOHNSON

Tom DiPace/Athlon Sports

THE QUOTE

"Defensively, what surprises me is they are not very fast overall as a team. It's opposite of what you'd expect of a Miami team."

— *An opposing ACC assistant coach*

OFFENSE (5)

WR	3	Stacy Coley (So.)	80	Rashawn Scott (Sr.)
WR	4	Phillip Dorsett (Sr.)	15	D'Mauri Jones (So.)
WR	6	Herb Waters (Jr.)	9	Malcolm Lewis (So.)
LT	**74**	**Ereck Flowers (Jr.)**	52	KC McDermott (Fr.)
LG	**70**	**Jon Feliciano (Sr.)**	64	Hunter Wells (Jr.)
C	**62**	**Shane McDermott (Sr.)**	67	Alex Gall (So.)
RG	63	Danny Isidora (So.)	73	Trevor Darling (Fr.)
RT	76	Taylor Gadbois (So.)	66	Sunny Odogwu (Fr.)
TE	**46**	**Clive Walford (Sr.)**	5	Standish Dobard (So.)
QB	19	Kevin Olsen (Fr.)		Brad Kaaya (Fr.)
RB	**8**	**Duke Johnson (Jr.)**	7	Gus Edwards (So.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	**71**	**Anthony Chickillo (Sr.)**	98	Al-Quadin Muhammad (So.)
DT	**91**	**Olsen Pierre (Sr.)**	99	Jelani Hamilton (Jr.)
DT		Michael Wyche (Jr.)	72	Earl Moore (Jr.)
DE	47	Ufomba Kamalu (Jr.)		Chad Thomas (Fr.)
OLB	36	Alex Figueroa (So.)	**34**	**Thurston Armbrister (Sr.)**
MLB	**52**	**Denzel Perryman (Sr.)**	51	Juwon Young (Fr.)
OLB	56	Raphael Kirby (Jr.)	17	Tyriq McCord (Jr.)
CB	**3**	**Tracy Howard (Jr.)**	1	Artie Burns (So.)
CB	**37**	**Ladarius Gunter (Sr.)**	21	Antonio Crawford (Jr.)
SS	**26**	**Rayshawn Jenkins (Jr.)**	25	Dallas Crawford (Jr.)
FS	2	Deon Bush (Jr.)	6	Jamal Carter (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	18	Matt Goudis (Jr.)	KR	8	Duke Johnson (Jr.)
P	18	Matt Goudis (Jr.)	PR	3	Stacy Coley (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Ryan Williams, 32-22-369-1, 3 TDs
Rushing: Duke Johnson, 145 att., 920 yds., 6 TDs
Receiving: Clive Walford, 34 rec., 454 yds., 2 TDs
Tackles: Denzel Perryman, 108
Sacks: Tyriq McCord, 4
Interceptions: Tracy Howard, 4

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

NORTH CAROLINA TAR HEELS

NATIONAL FORECAST 31
ACC COASTAL PREDICTION 3

Head Coach: Larry Fedora
Record at School: 15-10 (2 years)
Career Record: 49-29 (6 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Seth Littrell
Co-Defensive Coordinators:
Dan Disch, Vic Koenning
Chapel Hill, NC
Kenan Memorial Stadium (63,000)

2014 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 8-4, 5-3 (ACC)

August	
30	Liberty
September	
6	San Diego State
20	at East Carolina
27	at Clemson
October	
4	Virginia Tech
11	at Notre Dame
18	Georgia Tech
25	at Virginia
November	
1	at Miami
15	Pittsburgh
20	at Duke
29	NC State

2013 RESULTS (7-6, 4-4)

Aug. 29	at South Carolina	L	10-27
Sept. 7	Middle Tennessee	W	40-20
Sept. 21	at Georgia Tech	L	20-28
Sept. 28	East Carolina	L	31-55
Oct. 5	at Virginia Tech	L	17-27
Oct. 17	Miami	L	23-27
Oct. 26	Boston College	W	34-10
Nov. 2	at NC State	W	27-19
Nov. 9	Virginia	W	45-14
Nov. 16	at Pittsburgh	W	34-27
Nov. 23	Old Dominion	W	80-20
Nov. 30	Duke	L	25-27
Dec. 28	vs. Cincinnati #	W	39-17

#Belk Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Elijah Hood, RB, Charlotte, NC
2. Bentley Spain, OL, Charlotte, NC
3. Caleb Henderson, QB, Burke, VA
4. Jeremiah Clarke, DL, Alexandria, VA
5. Jared Cohen, OL, Owings Mill, MD
6. Cayson Collins, LB, Charlotte, NC
7. Tyrell Tomlin, LB, Marietta, GA
8. Josh Allen, OL, Jacksonville, FL
9. M.J. Stewart, DB, Arlington, VA
10. Brandon Fritts, TE, Mentor, OH

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	ACC	National
Scoring	32.7 ppg	6	43
Rushing	148.3 ypg	11	84
Passing	277.4 ypg	3	28
Total	425.7 ypg	6	49
Defense	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
Scoring	24.5 ppg	6	43
Rushing	182.5 ypg	14	82
Passing	220.7 ypg	6	50
Total	403.2 ypg	10	64
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
+2	+0.2	6	48

OFFENSE North Carolina has plenty of weapons entering Year 3 with coach Larry Fedora's fast-paced attack. The question is whether the Tar Heels will get enough help from the offensive line in order to utilize their skill position talent.

Quarterback Marquise Williams figures to be the trigger man after guiding UNC to four wins in its final five games last season. Williams has improved as a passer and has the strength and toughness to pick up tough yards as a runner.

UNC is especially loaded at running back, where returning starter T.J. Logan leads a quartet full of speed and power. Incoming recruit Elijah Hood figures to make an immediate impact with his punishing style, and fleet-footed Romar Morris and Khris Francis also will contribute.

At receiver, the production of All-ACC tight end Eric Ebron will be difficult to replace. But the Tar Heels have nice variety among their wideouts. Quinshad Davis and Bug Howard are tall, rangy targets on the outside, and Ryan Switzer and T.J. Thorpe are shifty, speedy players with open-field ability.

Up front is where the questions exist. The Tar Heels lost their top two performers from a unit that was shaky for much of last season. They must find a left tackle to replace departed star James Hurst, and they need Lucas Crowley to emerge in his starting role at center.

STAT CORNER

7.6

North Carolina's average yards to go on third down last season, 108th in the nation.

DEFENSE Torched for the first half of the 2013 season, UNC's defense improved as players gained a better grasp of Vic Koenning's aggressive scheme. Star defensive end Kareem Martin is gone, but the unit should be better than it was in Fedora's first two seasons.

Koenning likes to bring blitzes from all over the field, but he should be able to get a consistent pass rush from Norkeithus Otis at the Bandit position. Otis had 7.5 sacks last season and leads a deep group up front that also features run-stopping nose tackle Ethan Farmer.

At linebacker, senior Travis Hughes returns for one final chance to capitalize on lofty potential that has gone mostly unfulfilled. The coaching staff wanted to get UNC's best athletes on the field together more often, so speedy senior Darius Lipford has shifted from Bandit to middle linebacker.

The secondary should be improved with the emergence of cornerback Brian Walker, a potential star, and the move of senior Tim Scott from corner to free safety. Safety Dominique Green and Ram Malik Simmons also are coming off promising finishes to 2013.

SPECIALISTS The Tar Heels are dangerous on special teams. Switzer, who led the nation in punt return average and tied an NCAA record with five punt returns for scores last season, puts fear in the hearts of opposing coaches and punters. Logan brought back a pair of kickoffs for touchdowns last season, and Thorpe led the ACC in kickoff return average in 2011. Punter Tommy Hibbard has helped the Tar Heels lead the league in net punting each of the last two years. Kicker Thomas Moore lacks accuracy from long range, but he is reliable from inside 40 yards.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Tar Heels have enough talent to challenge for first place in the ACC's Coastal Division, which remains unpredictable and up for grabs, but their margin of error is small. In truth, UNC looks to be in better shape for 2015 than for this season. The offense has only one senior on the two-deep depth chart, and the defense would benefit from another year of experience up front and in the secondary. But the Tar Heels have to play the 2014 season first. If they perform better than expected along the offensive line and get a breakout season from someone on a defense that lacks an established star, the future could be now.

QUINSHAD DAVIS

THE QUOTE

"I think they have a potential great one in (running back) T.J. Logan. He didn't get a lot of touches last year, but you can tell the talent's there."

—An opposing ACC assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	**14**	**Quinshad Davis (Jr.)**	**81**	**Kendrick Singleton (Jr.)**
WR	3	Ryan Switzer (So.)	84	Bug Howard (So.)
WR	**5**	**T.J. Thorpe (Jr.)**	88	Jordan Fieulleteau (Fr.)
LT	75	Bentley Spain (Fr.)	77	John Ferranto (So.)
LG	**70**	**Caleb Peterson (So.)**	54	Will Dancy (Jr.)
C	65	Lucas Crowley (So.)	74	Arien Smith (Jr.)
RG	**78**	**Landon Turner (Jr.)**	73	Brad Henson (Fr.)
RT	**71**	**Jon Heck (So.)**	72	Kiaro Holts (Jr.)
TE	**80**	**Jack Tabb (Sr.)**	82	Brandon Fritts (Fr.)
QB	12	Marquise Williams (Jr.)	10	Mitch Trubisky (Fr.)
RB	8	T.J. Logan (So.)	34	Elijah Hood (Fr.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	44	Junior Gnonkonde (So.)	90	Jessie Rogers (Jr.)
DT	98	Justin Thomason (Jr.)	92	Nazair Jones (Fr.)
NT	**96**	**Ethan Farmer (Sr.)**	97	Shawn Underwood (Sr.)
BAN	**8**	**Norkeithus Otis (Sr.)**	42	Shakeel Rashad (Jr.)
MLB	23	Darius Lipford (Sr.)	33	Nathan Staub (So.)
WLB	**9**	**Travis Hughes (Sr.)**	**34**	**Jeff Schoettmer (Jr.)**
RAM	**11**	**Malik Simmons (Jr.)**	15	Donnie Miles (Fr.)
CB	28	Brian Walker (So.)	16	Alex Dixon (Jr.)
CB	2	Desmond Lawrence (So.)	6	M.J. Stewart (Fr.)
SS	**26**	**Dominique Green (So.)**	25	Kameron Jackson (Jr.)
FS	**7**	**Tim Scott (Sr.)**	3	Sam Smiley (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	18	Thomas Moore (Sr.)	**KR**	8 T.J. Logan (So.)
P	30	Tommy Hibbard (Sr.)	**PR**	3 Ryan Switzer (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Marquise Williams, 217-126-1,698-6, 15 TDs
Rushing: Marquise Williams, 111 att., 536 yds., 6 TDs
Receiving: Quinshad Davis, 48 rec., 730, 10 TDs
Tackles: Jeff Schoettmer, 85
Sacks: Norkeithus Otis, 7.5
Interceptions: Dominique Green, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Margaret Bowles/Athlon Sports

PITT PITTSBURGH PANTHERS

NATIONAL FORECAST **36**
ACC COASTAL PREDICTION **4**

Head Coach: Paul Chryst
Record at School: 13-13 (2 years)
Career Record: 13-13 (2 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Joe Rudolph
Defensive Coordinator: Matt House
Pittsburgh, Pa.
Heinz Field (65,500)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 8-4, 4-4 (ACC)

August	
30	Delaware
September	
5	at Boston College
13	at FIU
20	Iowa
27	Akron
October	
4	at Virginia
16	Virginia Tech
25	Georgia Tech
November	
1	Duke
15	at North Carolina
22	Syracuse
29	at Miami

2013 RESULTS (7-6, 3-5)

Sept. 2	Florida State	L	13–41
Sept. 14	New Mexico	W	49–27
Sept. 21	at Duke	W	58–55
Sept. 28	Virginia	W	14–3
Oct. 12	at Virginia Tech	L	9–19
Oct. 19	Old Dominion	W	35–24
Oct. 26	at Navy	L	21–24
Nov. 2	at Georgia Tech	L	10–21
Nov. 9	Notre Dame	W	28–21
Nov. 16	North Carolina	L	27–34
Nov. 23	at Syracuse	W	17–16
Nov. 29	Miami	L	31–41
Dec. 26	vs. Bowling Green #	W	30–27

#Little Caesars Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Alex Bookser, OL, Pittsburgh, PA
2. Adonis Jennings, WR, Clementon, NJ
3. Chris James, RB, Chicago, IL
4. Mike Grimm, OL, Bethel Park, PA
5. Connor Hayes, OL, Traverse City, MI
6. Adam Bertke, QB, Maria Stein, OH
7. Qadree Ollison, RB, Niagara Falls, NY
8. Jaquaun Davidson, ATH, Elizabeth, PA
9. Elijah Zeise, WR, Pittsburgh, PA
10. Avonte Maddox, DB, Detroit, MI

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	ACC	National
Scoring	26.3 ppg	8	80
Rushing	125.7 ypg	12	102
Passing	236.5 ypg	8	59
Total	362.2 ypg	12	97
Defense	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
Scoring	27.2 ppg	11	69
Rushing	149.0 ypg	6	43
Passing	218.5 ypg	4	44
Total	367.5 ypg	7	34
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
-1	-0.1	10	68

OFFENSE Pittsburgh was more jugger-not than juggernaut in its debut season in the ACC. It ranked 118th nationally in sacks allowed, 102nd in rushing yards and 80th in points. Are better times ahead? Hard to tell.

For the second consecutive season, coach Paul Chryst must break in a new starting quarterback. Sophomore Chad Voytik is a dual-threat in the mold of Russell Wilson (whom Chryst coached as offensive coordinator at Wisconsin). He threw for more than 5,000 yards as a prep. Problem is, his collegiate sample size is limited to 11 career passing attempts. That said, Voytik opened eyes after stepping in for injured starter Tom Savage in the Little Caesars Pizza Bowl and leading a last-second victory.

Voytik's transition should be made easier thanks to sophomore wideout Tyler Boyd, who was the nation's most productive freshman receiver with 85 receptions for 1,174 yards. The challenge is finding a No. 2 pass-catcher to offset the attention Boyd is sure to face.

At running back, bruising sophomore James Conner is coming off a 799-yard season (5.5 per carry), during which he ran for 229 yards in the bowl victory over Bowling Green. The offensive line could be a concern. The unit returns four starters, but given last season's struggles, that might not be a positive.

STAT CORNER

33.3

Percent of the 33 fumbles that took place in Pittsburgh games that were recovered by the Panthers. Only Akron (31.4) recovered a lower percentage.

DEFENSE How does Pittsburgh replace all-everything tackle Aaron Donald? It doesn't. However, "Just because one guy left doesn't mean the whole defensive line is going to fall apart," says junior tackle Darryl Render. The belief is that Donald's tenacity will have a residual effect for current and future Panthers. And with only five starters returning from a unit that ranked 34th overall, that's a must. Render and Khaynin Mosley-Smith will provide experience on the interior line, while sophomore end Shakir Soto, who had a sack in his lone start in '13, is a player to watch as Pittsburgh tries to increase its sack total of 25.

A point of emphasis for the linebackers and defensive backs this spring was creating more turnovers, given that the Panthers ranked 107th in that category. They also had an ACC-low eight interceptions. A big season is needed from athletic linebacker Todd Thomas, who was fourth in tackles but provided no sacks or interceptions. Ditto for cornerback Lafayette Pitts (no interceptions). As a unit, the linebacking corps could flourish with returning starter and former blue-chip quarterback Anthony Gonzalez joining Thomas and true sophomore Matt Galambos. In the secondary, safety Ray Vinopal returns after ranking second in tackles. He also had two interceptions in an upset of Notre Dame.

SPECIALISTS Chris Blewitt set a record for Pittsburgh freshman kickers with 82 points, converting 14-of-18 field goals. At punter, redshirt freshman Ryan Winslow steps in for three-year starter Matt Yoklic.

FINAL ANALYSIS In recent vintage, Pittsburgh would best be described as unimpressive and/or average. The words are cringe-worthy for those involved with the program, but not inaccurate. The Panthers are 13–13 in two seasons under Chryst and 19–20 since 2011. The good news is that the program firmly belongs to Chryst — only 17 players remain from previous regimes — and young players are making an impact. Chryst played 12 freshmen extensively last season. Still, the Panthers should expect to experience more growing pains, given the uncertainty at quarterback, the precarious nature of the offensive line and a defense that lost the best lineman in the nation. Victories over Notre Dame, Duke and Bowling Green in '13 can serve as building blocks, but losses to Navy, Georgia Tech and North Carolina are reminders that more work must be done.

TYLER BOYD

Fred Vuich

THE QUOTE

"(Wide receiver) Tyler Boyd is back. He's special. He's just polished, athletic and can run. He's a big play waiting to happen."

— An opposing ACC assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	**23**	**Tyler Boyd (So.)**	14	Ronald Jones (Jr.)
WR	82	Manasseh Garner (Sr.)	88	Kevin Weatherspoon (Sr.)
LT	**69**	**Adam Bisnowaty (So.)**	75	Jaryd Jones-Smith (Fr.)
LG	53	Dorian Johnson (So.)	71	Gabe Roberts (So.)
C	**57**	**Artie Rowell (Jr.)**	63	Alex Officer (Fr.)
RG	**74**	**Matt Rotheram (Sr.)**	72	Carson Baker (Fr.)
RT	**68**	**T.J. Clemmings (Sr.)**	60	Aaron Reese (Fr.)
TE	**86**	**J.P. Holtz (Jr.)**	83	Scott Orndoff (So.)
QB	16	Chad Voytik (So.)	11	Trey Anderson (Jr.)
FB	31	Jaymar Parrish (So.)	46	Adam Lazenga (Sr.)
TB	24	James Conner (So.)	**34**	**Isaac Bennett (Sr.)**

DEFENSE (5)

DE	**44**	**David Durham (Sr.)**	5	Ejuan Price (Jr.)
DT	91	Darryl Render (Jr.)	56	Justin Moody (Fr.)
NT	95	Khaynin Mosley-Smith (Jr.)	54	Tyrique Jarrett (So.)
DE	52	Shakir Soto (So.)	55	Luke Maclean (Fr.)
SLB	**28**	**Anthony Gonzalez (Sr.)**	4	Bam Bradley (So.)
MLB	47	Matt Galambos (So.)	30	Mike Caprara (So.)
WLB	**8**	**Todd Thomas (Sr.)**	3	Nicholas Grigsby (Jr.)
CB	**6**	**Lafayette Pitts (Jr.)**	27	Trenton Coles (So.)
CB	18	Titus Howard (So.)	27	Trenton Coles (So.)
FS	**9**	**Ray Vinopal (Sr.)**	38	Ryan Lewis (So.)
SS	19	Terrish Webb (So.)	15	Reggie Mitchell (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	12	Chris Blewitt (So.)	**KR**	6	Lafayette Pitts (Jr.)
P	90	Ryan Winslow (Fr.)	**PR**	23	Tyler Boyd (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Chad Voytik, 11-6-116-0, 0 TDs
Rushing: James Conner, 146 att., 799 yds., 8 TDs
Receiving: Tyler Boyd, 85 rec., 1,174 yds., 7 TDs
Tackles: Ray Vinopal, 83
Sacks: Bryan Murphy, 4.0
Interceptions: Ray Vinopal, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

VIRGINIA CAVALIERS

NATIONAL FORECAST **71**
ACC COASTAL PREDICTION **7**

Head Coach: Mike London
Record at School: 18-31 (4 years)
Career Record: 42-36 (6 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Steve Fairchild
Defensive Coordinator: Jon Tenuta
Charlottesville, VA
Scott Stadium (61,500)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 3-9, 1-7 (ACC)

August	
30	UCLA
September	
6	Richmond
13	Louisville
20	at BYU
27	Kent State
October	
4	Pittsburgh
18	at Duke
25	North Carolina
November	
1	at Georgia Tech
8	at Florida State
22	Miami
28	at Virginia Tech

2013 RESULTS (2-10, 0-8)

Aug. 31	BYU	W	19–16
Sept. 7	Oregon	L	10–59
Sept. 21	VMI	W	49–0
Sept. 28	at Pittsburgh	L	3–14
Oct. 5	Ball State	L	27–48
Oct. 12	at Maryland	L	26–27
Oct. 19	Duke	L	22–35
Oct. 26	Georgia Tech	L	25–35
Nov. 2	Clemson	L	10–59
Nov. 9	at North Carolina	L	14–45
Nov. 23	at Miami	L	26–45
Nov. 30	Virginia Tech	L	6–16

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Andrew Brown, DT, Chesapeake, VA
2. Quin Blanding, S, Virginia Beach, VA
3. Jamil Kamara, WR, Virginia Beach, VA
4. Steven Moss, OL, Fredericksburg, VA
5. Corwin Cutler, QB, Virginia Beach, VA
6. Jake Fieler, OL, Parkersburg, WV
7. Jeff Farrar, CB, Upland, CA
8. Jordan Jackson, DE, Purcellville, VA
9. Darious Latimore, DB, Lawrenceville, GA
10. Evan Butts, TE, Newtown Square, PA

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	ACC	National
Scoring	19.8 ppg	13	109
Rushing	156.6 ypg	9	76
Passing	211.8 ypg	10	81
Total	368.4 ypg	10	89
Defense	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
Scoring	33.3 ppg	14	98
Rushing	170.7 ypg	10	74
Passing	232.9 ypg	10	67
Total	403.6 ypg	11	65
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
-5	-0.4	13	94

OFFENSE There's plenty of blame to go around for last year's 2–10 season, but the root of Virginia's problem was an anemic offense that lacked imagination and identity. Its lack of production put a lot on the shoulders of a defense decimated by injuries late in the year.

A second season in coordinator Steve Fairchild's system is expected to pay dividends. Virginia also believes it has more playmakers than a year ago. Fans have heard that before.

The biggest change this year could be at quarterback, where Greyson Lambert is expected to unseat incumbent David Watford, who struggled in 2013. Lambert is not as elusive as Watford, but if he can be more accurate and less mistake-prone, it will be a net gain.

Kevin Parks, the leading returning rusher in the ACC, brings durability and between-the-tackles toughness to the tailback slot. Former five-star recruit Taquan Mizzell offers sizzle and big-play potential.

Both will depend on a rebuilt offensive line that must replace multi-season fixtures Morgan Moses and Luke Bowanko.

The decision of tight end-turned receiver Jake McGee to transfer turns up the heat on a largely unproven group. Sophomores Keeon Johnson and Kyle Dockins, part of a youth movement last year, bring size and toughness. Senior Darius Jennings, who has 106 career catches, is being counted on to improve on his 10.8 yards-per-catch average by stretching the field.

STAT CORNER

7.8

Average yards to go against the Virginia defense on third down, 10th-most in the country. The Cavaliers still lost 10 games.

DEFENSE When the band was all together last season, Jon Tenuta's defense showed signs of becoming the type of marauding bunch the longtime coordinator craves. Injuries left the team short-handed, however, and forced Tenuta to dial back on his pressure schemes. With nearly everyone returning, and with another year to tinker with different fronts and packages, the group has the potential to bring the heat this year, particularly off the edge.

Defensive end Eli Harold is a speed-rusher who has the look of a possible breakout star. So does outside linebacker Max Valles, another long, lean athlete who should thrive in Tenuta's attacking style.

"I believe that those two guys could be special," London says. "I believe that you can do multiple things with them, whether their hands are on the ground or they're standing up."

The Cavaliers also look strong up the middle at defensive tackle and at middle linebacker, where senior Henry Coley is a stalwart. The secondary is loaded with experience, led by senior Anthony Harris, who led the nation in interceptions with eight last season.

Virginia increased its takeaways from 12 to 21 last year. Gambling led to some inevitable breakdowns. Minimizing those mistakes while remaining disruptive is the key.

SPECIALISTS Alec Vozenilek earned his scholarship last year, punting 85 times and downing more kicks inside the 20 than anyone in the ACC. He also filled in for the injured Ian Frye on field goals, hitting 12-of-15. Frye, who has more range as a placekicker, is back this season, good news for a team that must take points wherever it can find them.

FINAL ANALYSIS For these keeping track, and everyone is, Virginia's 2–10 finish last year represented its fewest wins since 1982. The Cavaliers were winless in the ACC for the first time since 1981.

London won't survive another campaign like that. He might not even make it to midseason. With a maturing roster and the continuity that comes with a second season in offensive and defensive systems installed last year, Virginia should be better. The question, given a challenging schedule and a culture of coming up short, is how much that improvement will be reflected in the bottom line.

KEVIN PARKS

THE QUOTE

"It's the strangest thing — on defense, they can look like the '85 Bears some moments and look like they want to avoid contact the next."

— An opposing ACC assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	85	**Keeon Johnson (So.)**	87	Kyle Dockins (So.)
WR	6	Darius Jennings (Sr.)	14	Andre Levrone (Fr.)
LT	72	**Eric Smith (So.)**	75	Sadiq Olanrewaju (So.)
LG	74	**Conner Davis (Sr.)**	63	Ryan Doull (So.)
C	68	Eric Tetlow (So.)	67	Jackson Matteo (So.)
RG	61	Cody Wallace (Sr.)	65	Ross Burbank (Jr.)
RT	77	**Jay Whitmire (Jr.)**	64	Jake Fieler (Fr.)
TE	49	**Zach Swanson (Sr.)**	89	Rob Burns (Jr.)
QB	11	Greyson Lambert (So.)	5	**David Watford (Jr.)**
FB	41	Connor Wingo-Reeves (So.)	47	Vincent Croce (Jr.)
RB	25	**Kevin Parks (Sr.)**	4	Taquan Mizzell (So.)

DEFENSE (8)

DE	7	**Eli Harold (Jr.)**	43	Trent Corney (Jr.)
DT	55	**David Dean (Jr.)**	9	Andrew Brown (Fr.)
DT	58	Chris Brathwaite (Sr.)	93	Donte Wilkins (So.)
DE	32	Mike Moore (Jr.)	34	Kwontie Moore (Jr.)
OLB	88	Max Valles (So.)	42	Demeitre Brim (Jr.)
MLB	44	**Henry Coley (Sr.)**	53	Micah Kiser (Fr.)
OLB	13	**Daquan Romero (Sr.)**	59	Mark Hall (So.)
CB	1	Demetrious Nicholson (Sr.)	5	Tim Harris (So.)
CB	22	**DreQuan Hoskey (Jr.)**	26	**Maurice Canady (Jr.)**
FS	21	**Brandon Phelps (Sr.)**	18	Anthony Cooper (So.)
SS	8	**Anthony Harris (Sr.)**		Quin Blanding (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	15	Ian Frye (Jr.)	KR 23	Khalek Shepherd (Sr.)
P	30	Alec Vozenilek (Sr.)	PR 4	Taquan Mizzell (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: David Watford, 427-244-2,202-15, 8 TDs
Rushing: Kevin Parks, 227 att., 1,031 yds., 11 TDs
Receiving: Darius Jennings, 38 rec., 340 yds., 3 TDs
Tackles: Henry Coley, 91
Sacks: Eli Harold, 8.5
Interceptions: Anthony Harris, 8

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Bruce Schwartzman/Athlon Sports

VIRGINIA TECH HOKIES

NATIONAL FORECAST 27
ACC COASTAL PREDICTION 1

Head Coach: Frank Beamer
Record at School: 224-109-2 (27 years)
Career Record: 266-132-4 (33 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Scot Loeffler
Defensive Coordinator: Bud Foster
Blacksburg, VA
Lane Stadium (65,632)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 9-4, 6-2 (ACC)

August	
30	William & Mary
September	
6	at Ohio State
13	East Carolina
20	Georgia Tech
27	Western Michigan
October	
4	at North Carolina
16	at Pittsburgh
23	Miami
November	
1	Boston College
15	at Duke
22	at Wake Forest
28	Virginia

2013 RESULTS (8-5, 5-3)

Aug. 31	vs. Alabama %		L	10–35
Sept. 7	Western Carolina		W	45–3
Sept. 14	at East Carolina		W	15–10
Sept. 21	Marshall	(ot)	W	29–21
Sept. 26	at Georgia Tech		W	17–10
Oct. 5	North Carolina		W	27–17
Oct. 12	Pittsburgh		W	19–9
Oct. 26	Duke		L	10–13
Nov. 2	at Boston College		L	27–34
Nov. 9	at Miami		W	42–24
Nov. 16	Maryland		L	24–27
Nov. 30	at Virginia		W	16–6
Dec. 31	vs. UCLA #		L	12–42

#Sun Bowl %Atlanta

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Holland Fisher, DB, Richmond, VA
2. Shai McKenzie, RB, Washington, PA
3. Raymon Minor, LB, Ashland, VA
4. Travon McMillian, ATH, Woodbridge, VA
5. Chris Durkin, QB, Poland, OH
6. Ricky Walker, DT, Hampton, VA
7. Isaiah Ford, WR, Jacksonville, FL
8. Marshawn Williams, RB, Hampton, VA
9. D.J. Reid, RB, Chester, VA
10. Melvin Keihn, LB, Towson, MD

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	ACC	National
Scoring	22.5 ppg	12	99
Rushing	119.8 ypg	13	109
Passing	236.2 ypg	9	61
Total	356.0 ypg	13	101
Defense	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
Scoring	19.3 ppg	2	11
Rushing	110.9 ypg	1	10
Passing	172.7 ypg	2	8
Total	283.6 ypg	2	4
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
+7	0.5	2	24

OFFENSE With the departure of three-year starter Logan Thomas, the Hokies have as wide open of a quarterback battle as they've had in years. Sophomore Brenden Motley had a slight lead of the three quarterbacks in Blacksburg in the spring, but Texas Tech transfer Michael Brewer, who in 2012 threw for 375 yards and four touchdowns in nine games with the Red Raiders, might be the best bet to win the job after a summer arrival.

Tech's ground game should be better, if only because it would be tough to be worse. The Hokies had one of the most inept rushing attacks in Frank Beamer's 27 seasons in Blacksburg last year, averaging only 119.8 yards per game. But sophomore Trey Edmunds (675 yards, 10 TDs) is back after suffering a broken leg in the regular-season finale, and 224-pound freshman Marshawn Williams might be the answer to the Hokies' short-yardage woes. It'll help if Tech's underperforming offensive line, which returns five players who started games last year, can come together under Stacy Searels, the unit's third coach in as many years.

The top three receivers, Joshua Stanford, Willie Byrn and Demitri Knowles, are back. All three caught at least 40 passes last year, but it's the tight ends who have offensive coordinator Scot Loeffler most excited. Ryan Malleck returns from a shoulder injury that cost him all of 2013, Kalvin Cline is looking to build off a solid freshman year, and converted quarterback Bucky Hodges, a 6'6", 243-pounder with 4.5 speed, will be a matchup nightmare for opponents.

STAT CORNER

48.5

Opponents' completion rate against the Virginia Tech defense in 2013. There's no avoiding death, taxes and a strong Bud Foster defense.

DEFENSE With seven seniors who started during their careers gone from last year, defensive coordinator Bud Foster has some reloading to do with a group that ranked fourth nationally last season. The first team separated itself in the spring, especially up front. Luther Maddy turned down a chance at the NFL to be the anchor the Hokies need on the interior, and 257-pound tackle Corey Marshall has been a handful because of his quickness. Dadi Nicolas and Ken Ekanem have been bookend pass-rushers with good burst off the edge.

The linebackers had a complete overhaul, with fifth-year senior Chase Williams, a heady veteran who's waited his turn, and Deon Clarke, an athletic junior who came on in the spring, standing out.

The secondary is solid, with beyond-their-years sophomores Kendall Fuller and Brandon Facyson locking down the cornerback spots. They combined for 11 interceptions as true freshmen. Seniors Kyshoen Jarrett and Detrick Bonner man the safety positions, rounding out the most experienced unit on the defense. It's not the biggest defense Foster has had, but it might be among the quickest, one that has the potential to be plenty disruptive.

SPECIALISTS A.J. Hughes is solid at punter, although that's about the only sure thing on the Hokies' once-proud special teams. Tech missed 11 field goals last year, second-most nationally, and doesn't appear to have an obvious candidate at kicker this season. Incoming freshman Michael Santamaria, a rare scholarship kicker out of high school, might be the answer.

FINAL ANALYSIS The offense should benefit from being in Year 2 in Loeffler's system, but Year 1 didn't exactly set the bar high. The Hokies had the 101st-ranked offense nationally in 2013, averaging 356.0 yards per game. Fixing the lagging running game would go a long way toward making Virginia Tech more competitive, since there's plenty of faith in Blacksburg that Foster will figure things out like he always does. Beamer is confident that the changes he made to the offensive coaching staff prior to 2013 are taking root but knows that it will take time. Still, the Hokies should contend in a wide-open Coastal Division this year.

KENDALL FULLER

Margaret Bowles

THE QUOTE

"I don't know what their identity is offensively, and I don't know that they do. ... I can't name a lot of guys on offense that really scare you."

— An opposing ACC assistant coach

OFFENSE (8)

WR	5	**Joshua Stanford (So.)**	16	Carlis Parker (So.)
WR	80	Demitri Knowles (Jr.)	**82**	**Willie Byrn (Sr.)**
LT	71	**Jonathan McLaughlin (So.)**	69	Mark Shuman (Sr.)
LG	57	Wyatt Teller (Fr.)	75	Alston Smith (So.)
C	79	**Caleb Farris (Sr.)**	**76**	**David Wang (Sr.)**
RG	72	Augie Conte (So.)	**55**	**Brent Benedict (Sr.)**
RT	63	Laurence Gibson (Sr.)	67	Parker Osterloh (Fr.)
TE	88	Ryan Malleck (Jr.)	**89**	**Kalvin Cline (So.)**
QB		Michael Brewer (Jr.)	9	Brenden Motley (So.)
FB	45	Sam Rogers (So.)	47	Greg Gadell (Sr.)
RB	14	**Trey Edmunds (So.)**	4	J.C. Coleman (Jr.)

DEFENSE (5)

DE	90	Dadi Nicolas (Jr.)	87	Dewayne Alford (So.)
DT	96	Corey Marshall (Jr.)		Wade Hansen (Jr.)
DT	92	**Luther Maddy (Sr.)**	95	Nigel Williams (So.)
DE	4	Ken Ekanem (So.)	43	Seth Dooley (Fr.)
ILB	36	Chase Williams (Sr.)	54	Andrew Motuapuaka (Fr.)
ILB	40	Deon Clarke (Jr.)	35	Dahman McKinnon (So.)
OLB	37	Ronny Vandyke (Jr.)	32	Josh Trimble (Jr.)
CB	11	**Kendall Fuller (So.)**	2	Donovan Riley (Jr.)
CB	31	**Brandon Facyson (So.)**	23	Der'Woun Greene (So.)
ROV	34	**Kyshoen Jarrett (Sr.)**	26	Desmond Frye (Jr.)
FS	8	**Detrick Bonner (Sr.)**	19	Chuck Clark (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K		Michael Santamaria (Fr.)	KR	80	Demitri Knowles (Jr.)
P	27	A.J. Hughes (Jr.)	PR	34	Kyshoen Jarrett (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Mark Leal, 29-15-155-2, 0 TDs
Rushing: Trey Edmunds, 166 att., 675 yds., 10 TDs
Receiving: Willie Byrn, 51 rec., 660 yds., 2 TDs
Tackles: Kyshoen Jarrett, 71
Sacks: Luther Maddy, 6.5
Interceptions: Kendall Fuller, 6

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

RALPH DAVID ABERNATHY IV, CINCINNATI

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

1. CINCINNATI **BEARCATS** 9-3, 7-1 AMERICAN
2. EAST CAROLINA **PIRATES** 8-4, 7-1 AMERICAN
3. UCF **KNIGHTS** 8-4, 6-2 AMERICAN
4. HOUSTON **COUGARS** 8-4, 5-3 AMERICAN
5. SOUTH FLORIDA **BULLS** 6-6, 5-3 AMERICAN
6. CONNECTICUT **HUSKIES** 5-7, 3-5 AMERICAN
7. SMU **MUSTANGS** 4-8, 3-5 AMERICAN
8. MEMPHIS **TIGERS** 5-7, 3-5 AMERICAN
9. TULANE **GREEN WAVE** 3-9, 2-6 AMERICAN
10. TEMPLE **OWLS** 3-9, 2-6 AMERICAN
11. TULSA **GOLDEN HURRICANE** 2-10, 1-7 AMERICAN

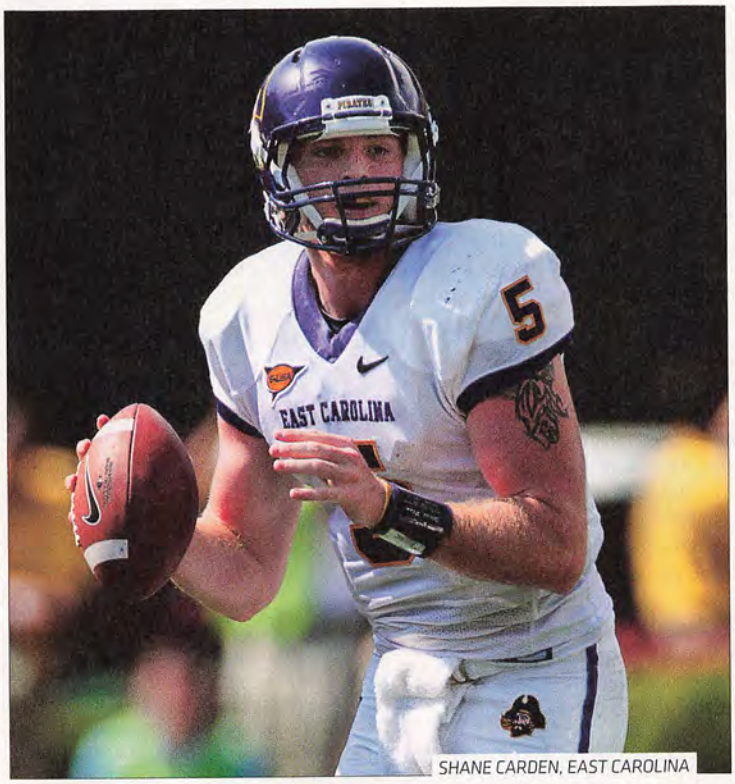
2014 UNIT RANKINGS

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
CINCINNATI	4	1	4	1	1	1	2
CONNECTICUT	6	3	5	10	5	10	3
EAST CAROLINA	1	6	3	3	7	5	8
HOUSTON	2	4	2	5	6	2	5
MEMPHIS	9	8	8	7	2	6	6
SMU	8	9	6	6	8	7	10
SOUTH FLORIDA	7	7	7	2	4	8	7
TEMPLE	3	5	11	11	11	3	11
TULANE	10	10	10	9	10	11	4
TULSA	11	11	9	8	9	9	9
UCF	5	2	1	4	3	4	1

Abernathy: Peter Brouillet; Carden: East Carolina SID

2013 AMERICAN STANDINGS

	AAC	OVERALL		AAC	OVERALL
UCF	8-0	12-1	CONNECTICUT	3-5	3-9
LOUISVILLE	7-1	12-1	RUTGERS	3-5	6-7
CINCINNATI	6-2	9-4	SOUTH FLORIDA	2-6	2-10
HOUSTON	5-3	8-5	TEMPLE	1-7	2-10
SMU	4-4	5-7	MEMPHIS	1-7	3-9



SHANE CARDEN, EAST CAROLINA

2014 AMERICAN BOWL PROJECTIONS

Military Bowl Cincinnati vs. Pittsburgh
Miami Beach Bowl East Carolina vs. BYU
Birmingham Bowl UCF vs. Vanderbilt
Armed Forces Bowl Houston vs. Oregon State
St. Petersburg Bowl South Florida vs. Georgia Tech

2013 AMERICAN BOWL RESULTS

Pinstripe Bowl Notre Dame 29, Rutgers 16
Belk Bowl North Carolina 39, Cincinnati 17
Russell Athletic Bowl Louisville 36, Miami (Fla.) 9
BBVA Compass Bowl Vanderbilt 41, Houston 24
Fiesta Bowl UCF 52, Baylor 42

RECRUITING BY SCHOOL

1. South Florida 2. UCF 3. Cincinnati 4. Temple 5. Houston 6. East Carolina 7. SMU 8. Memphis 9. Tulsa 10. Tulane 11. Connecticut

PRESEASON ALL-AAC TEAM

FIRST-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	SHANE CARDEN	6-2	221	Sr.	East Carolina
RB	LYLE MCCOMBS	5-8	171	Sr.	Connecticut
RB	WILLIAM STANBACK	5-11	221	So.	UCF
WR	DEONTAY GREENBERRY	6-3	198	Jr.	Houston
WR	JUSTIN HARDY	6-0	188	Sr.	East Carolina
TE	SEAN MCQUILLAN	6-3	239	Jr.	Connecticut
C	AUSTIN REITER	6-3	286	Sr.	South Florida
G	PARKER EHINGER	6-7	292	Jr.	Cincinnati
G	TORRIAN WILSON	6-3	305	Sr.	UCF
T	IKE HARRIS	6-7	304	Jr.	East Carolina
T	ERIC LEFELD	6-6	309	Sr.	Cincinnati

FIRST-TEAM DEFENSE

DE	MARTIN IFEDI	6-3	265	Sr.	Memphis
DE	SILVERBERRY MOUHON	6-4	248	Jr.	Cincinnati
DT	JOEY MBU	6-3	312	Sr.	Houston
DT	TERRY WILLIAMS	6-1	353	Sr.	East Carolina
LB	TYLER MATAKEVICH	6-1	230	Jr.	Temple
LB	DERRICK MATHEWS	6-0	214	Sr.	Houston
LB	TERRANCE PLUMMER	6-1	241	Sr.	UCF
CB	LORENZO DOSS	5-11	175	Jr.	Tulane
CB	JACOBY GLENN	6-0	178	So.	UCF
S	CLAYTON GEATHERS	6-2	208	Sr.	UCF
S	TREVON STEWART	5-9	192	Jr.	Houston

FIRST-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	MARVIN KLOSS	6-0	196	Sr.	South Florida
P	MATTIAS CIABATTI	6-0	188	Jr.	South Florida
KR	DEMARCUS AYERS	5-10	173	So.	Houston
PR	JUSTIN HARDY	6-0	188	Sr.	East Carolina

SECOND-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	JOHN O'KORN	6-4	205	So.	Houston
RB	RALPH DAVID ABERNATHY IV	5-7	161	Sr.	Cincinnati
RB	BREON ALLEN	5-8	190	Sr.	East Carolina
WR	GEREMY DAVIS	6-3	216	Sr.	Connecticut
WR	J.J. WORTON	6-2	209	Sr.	UCF
TE	MIKE MCFARLAND	6-5	260	Sr.	South Florida
C	TAYLOR LASECKI	6-3	296	Jr.	SMU
G	QUINTERRIUS EATMON	6-6	319	Sr.	South Florida
G	ROWDY HARPER	6-6	295	Sr.	Houston
T	GARRETT STAFFORD	6-5	314	Jr.	Tulsa
T	DARRELL WILLIAMS	6-5	303	Sr.	South Florida

SECOND-TEAM DEFENSE

DE	DERRICK ALEXANDER	6-2	270	Jr.	Tulsa
DE	ROYCE LAFRANCE	6-3	244	Jr.	Tulane
DT	JULIAN CAMPENNI	6-0	299	Jr.	Connecticut
DT	DERRICK LUETJEN	6-3	280	Jr.	Tulsa
LB	ZEEK BIGGER	6-2	228	Jr.	East Carolina
LB	EFREM OLIPHANT	6-1	230	Sr.	Houston
LB	NICK TEMPLE	5-10	218	Sr.	Cincinnati
CB	BYRON JONES	6-1	196	Sr.	Connecticut
CB	DARION MONROE	5-10	189	Jr.	Tulane
S	DEMARCO NELSON	6-0	195	Sr.	Tulsa
S	SAM SCOFIELD	6-1	185	Sr.	Tulane

SECOND-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	SHAWN MOFFITT	5-11	180	Sr.	UCF
P	PETER PICERELLI	6-1	190	Jr.	Tulane
KR	JOE CRAIG	5-11	175	Sr.	Memphis
PR	CHRIS DUNKLEY	6-0	188	Sr.	South Florida

CINCINNATI BEARCATS

NATIONAL FORECAST 43
AMERICAN PREDICTION 1

Head Coach: Tommy Tuberville
Record at School: 9-4 (1 year)
Career Record: 139-81 (18 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Eddie Gran
Co-Defensive Coordinators: Hank Hughes, Robert Prunty
Cincinnati, OH
Paul Brown Stadium (65,535)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 9-3, 7-1 (AMERICAN)

September	
12	Toledo
20	Miami (Ohio)
27	at Ohio State
October	
4	Memphis
11	at Miami (Fla.)
18	at SMU
24	South Florida
31	at Tulane
November	
13	East Carolina
22	at Connecticut
29	at Temple
December	
6	Houston

2013 RESULTS (9-4, 6-2)

Aug. 31	Purdue		W	42–7
Sept. 7	at Illinois		L	17–45
Sept. 14	Northwestern State		W	66–9
Sept. 21	at Miami (Ohio)		W	14–0
Oct. 5	at South Florida		L	20–26
Oct. 11	Temple		W	38–20
Oct. 19	Connecticut		W	41–16
Oct. 30	at Memphis		W	34–21
Nov. 9	SMU		W	28–25
Nov. 16	at Rutgers		W	52–17
Nov. 23	at Houston		W	24–17
Dec. 5	Louisville	(ot)	L	24–31
Dec. 28	vs. North Carolina #		L	17–39

#Belk Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Kevin Mouhon, LB, Norcross, GA
2. Casey Gladney, WR, Columbia, SC*
3. Hakeem Allonce, DT, Greenbelt, MD*
4. JJ Pinckney, CB, Sylvania, OH
5. Marcus Tappan, LB, Pasadena, CA*
6. Ja'Merez Bowen, DT, Shaker Heights, OH
7. Frank Labady, WR, Hialeah, FL
8. Jarred Evans, QB, Queens, NY*
9. Luke Callahan, OL, Powell, OH
10. Odell Spencer, CB, Shaker Heights, OH

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	AAC	National
Scoring	32.1 ppg	4	47
Rushing	168.5 ypg	3	66
Passing	303.6 ypg	3	18
Total	472.1 ypg	1	23
Defense	**Per Game**	**AAC**	**National**
Scoring	21.0 ppg	2	14
Rushing	104.5 ypg	1	6
Passing	211.2 ypg	3	29
Total	315.6 ypg	1	9
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**AAC**	**National**
-7	-0.5	7	102

OFFENSE Gunner Kiel was rated the nation's No. 1 quarterback prospect while in high school, and the Notre Dame transfer is expected to be the Cincinnati starter this season.

Kiel sat out 2013 as a transfer and has three years of eligibility remaining. Scouts like Kiel's big arm, precision and mobility. He shows a nice touch on the deep ball but needs to improve while throwing on the run. Kiel will be challenged in camp by junior college transfer Jarred Evans. Former starting quarterback Munchie Legaux returns for a fifth season after tearing knee ligaments in 2013, and anything he contributes would be a bonus.

UC returns its top three rushers in seniors Hosey Williams and Ralph David Abernathy IV and junior Tion Green. Abernathy is too small (5'7", 161) to be an every-down back, so he also worked at slot receiver in the spring.

Shaq Washington, a senior who had a team-high 78 receptions last season, headlines what should be a strong corps of wide receivers. Junior Chris Moore is among several returning wideouts, and highly regarded junior college transfer Casey Gladney enters the mix.

Left tackle Eric Lefeld was a unanimous first-team All-AAC choice last year. Center Deyshawn Bond and Parker Ehinger also are returning starters, with Ehinger moving from right tackle to right guard.

STAT CORNER

4.77

Yards per play allowed by Cincinnati in 2013, which ranked 10th in the country. Tommy Tuberville's influence was immediate on defense.

DEFENSE The Bearcats finished No. 9 nationally in total defense (315.6 ypg), but head coach Tommy Tuberville did not retain defensive coordinator Art Kaufman. Tuberville wanted to upgrade recruiting and hire coaches with more regional connections, so he tapped former Connecticut coordinator Hank Hughes to run the defense. Hughes will retain the 4-3 front that UC played last year.

Linebackers Nick Temple and Jeff Luc, defensive end Silverberry Mouhon (9.5 sacks), safety Zach Edwards and cornerback Howard Wilder are among key returnees. Mouhon became a real force last year. His brother, true freshman linebacker Kevin Mouhon, is the Bearcats' highest-rated 2014 recruit.

Linebacker is again a strength, with Northwestern transfer Eric Wilson joining Temple and Luc in the starting lineup. Luc, who began his career at Florida State, shifts inside to middle linebacker.

Gone are defensive tackle Jordan Stepp, linebacker Greg Blair and cornerback Deven Drane, who each earned all-league honors in '13.

Tuberville favors speed over size, and he says the Bearcats have more speed this year. UC compiled good defensive stats against relatively mild AAC opposition, but the speed issue was a problem in blowout losses to Illinois and North Carolina.

SPECIALISTS Special teams were a disaster in 2013. Veteran placekicker Tony Miliano slumped to 7-for-17 on field goals after hitting 34-of-47 in his first two seasons. UC ranked No. 121 nationally in net punting (33.0), had a long kickoff return of only 38 yards and a long punt return of only 35 yards. The punt return team allowed a TD in the Belk Bowl. There is a new special teams coach, however, with former grad assistant Marc Nudelberg.

FINAL ANALYSIS Much depends on the development of Kiel at quarterback. Kiel has the physical tools and has been a commanding presence at practice, but the test will be how he handles inevitable on-field adversity. UC started slowly last year (3–2) as the players adjusted to Tuberville and his staff. The coaches are entrenched now, but the lack of quarterback experience is an issue.

The non-league schedule includes trips to Ohio State and Miami (Fla.), but the Bearcats should contend for another upper-echelon finish in the AAC. With talent at the skill positions and improved speed on defense, a fourth consecutive bowl game seems reasonable.

NICK TEMPLE

THE QUOTE

"They have arguably best collection of talent in the league. They are really good on defense, very active."

— An opposing American assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	2	Mekale McKay (Jr.)	82	**Max Morrison (Jr.)**
WR	19	**Shaq Washington (Sr.)**	1	Ralph David Abernathy (Sr.)
WR	15	**Chris Moore (Jr.)**	80	Alex Chisum (Jr.)
LT	71	**Eric Lefeld (Sr.)**	98	Chad West (Jr.)
LG	75	Kevin Schloemer (Sr.)	73	Ryan Leahy (So.)
C	59	**Deyshawn Bond (So.)**	69	Dominic Mainello (Sr.)
RG	78	**Parker Ehinger (Jr.)**	67	Kyle Williamson (Fr.)
RT	62	Cory Keebler (Sr.)	74	Justin Murray (Jr.)
TE	81	DJ Dowdy (So.)	16	Jake Golic (Sr.)
QB	11	Gunner Kiel (So.)	12	Jarred Evans (Jr.)
RB	23	Hosey Williams (Sr.)	1	**Ralph David Abernathy (Sr.)**

DEFENSE (7)

DE	92	**Silverberry Mouhon (Jr.)**	93	Brad Harrah (Sr.)
DT	90	Camaron Beard (Sr.)	94	Chris Burton (Fr.)
DT	70	Brandon Mitchell (Jr.)	50	Alex Pace (So.)
DE	95	**Terrell Hartsfield (Sr.)**	99	Jerrell Jordan (Sr.)
OLB	43	**Nick Temple (Sr.)**	57	Clemente Casseus (Sr.)
MLB	1	**Jeff Luc (Sr.)**	33	Solomon Tentman (Sr.)
OLB	23	Eric Wilson (So.)	40	Kevin Brown (Jr.)
CB	3	**Howard Wilder (Sr.)**	13	Grant Coleman (So.)
CB	8	**Adrian Witty (Sr.)**	12	Leviticus Payne (Jr.)
FS	22	**Zach Edwards (So.)**	10	Darren Doston (Jr.)
SS	5	Mike Tyson (So.)	29	Andre Jones (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	14	Tony Miliano (Sr.)	KR 21	Rod Moore (Sr.)
P	24	John Lloyd (Sr.)	PR 19	Shaq Washington (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Munchie Legaux, 51-30-382-3, 2 TDs
Rushing: Hosey Williams, 115 att., 655 yds., 4 TDs
Receiving: Shaq Washington, 78 rec., 783 yds., 1 TD
Tackles: Nick Temple, 80
Sacks: Silverberry Mouhon, 9.5
Interceptions: 3 players tied with 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Peter Brouillet/Athlon Sports

CONNECTICUT HUSKIES

NATIONAL FORECAST **88**
AMERICAN PREDICTION **6**

Head Coach: Bob Diaco
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: First Season
Offensive Coordinator: Mike Cummings
Defensive Co-Coordinators: Vincent Brown, Anthony Poindexter
Storrs, CT
Rentschler Field (40,000)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 5-7, 3-5 (AMERICAN)

August	
29	BYU
September	
6	Stony Brook
13	Boise State
19	at South Florida
27	Temple
October	
11	at Tulane
23	at East Carolina
November	
1	UCF
8	vs. Army #
22	Cincinnati
29	at Memphis
December	
6	SMU

#Bronx, NY

2013 RESULTS (3-9, 3-5)

Aug. 29	Towson	L	18–33
Sept. 14	Maryland	L	21–32
Sept. 21	Michigan	L	21–24
Sept. 28	at Buffalo	L	12–41
Oct. 12	South Florida	L	10–13
Oct. 19	at Cincinnati	L	16–41
Oct. 26	at UCF	L	17–62
Nov. 8	Louisville	L	10–31
Nov. 16	at SMU	L	21–38
Nov. 23	at Temple	W	28–21
Nov. 30	Rutgers	W	28–17
Dec. 7	Memphis	W	45–10

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Arkeel Newsom, RB, Ansonia, CT
2. Vontae Diggs, LB, Downers Grove, L
3. Ron Johnson, RB, Naples, FL
4. Alec Bloom, TE, Ligonier, PA
5. Jamar Summers, CB, East Orange, NJ
6. Brice McAllister, RB, East Longmeadow, MA
7. Luke Carrezola, LB, Langhorne, PA
8. Trey Rutherford, T, King City, ON
9. Anthony Watkins, CB, Fort Meade, MD
10. Steve Hashemi, OL, Trumbull, CT

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	AAC	National
Scoring	20.6 ppg	8	106
Rushing	84.4 ypg	10	119
Passing	234.2 ypg	8	63
Total	318.6 ypg	8	112
Defense	**Per Game**	**AAC**	**National**
Scoring	30.3 ppg	9	85
Rushing	135.4 ypg	6	23
Passing	249.2 ypg	5	87
Total	384.6 ypg	6	51
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**AAC**	**National**
-1	-0.1	4	70

OFFENSE Three quarterbacks split the starting duties at UConn in 2013, each making four starts. Spring camp ended with the same three in the running for the starting job again. Casey Cochran, Chandler Whitmer and Tim Boyle will enter preseason practice battling it out for the No. 1 spot, but first-year coach Bob Diaco wants the situation settled no later than two weeks before the Aug. 29 opener against BYU. Cochran directed the Huskies to victories in the last three games of 2013, including a record-breaking 461-yard, four-touchdown performance against Memphis.

The starting quarterback will be blessed with a talented group of wide receivers who should form the strength of this offense. The most prolific of the bunch is senior Geremy Davis, who last season became the first 1,000-yard receiver at UConn in the FBS era. Davis will be joined by Deshon Foxx, who could be an impact player in his final season. Diaco hopes to have his tight ends heavily involved in the offense. Sean McQuillan and Tommy Myers headline another deep position.

Tailback Lyle McCombs, who ranks fourth all-time at UConn with 2,681 rushing yards, returns for his senior season. UConn ranked No. 119 in the nation in rushing offense last season and needs production from backup Max DeLorenzo, as well as fullbacks Jazzmar Clax and Matt Walsh, to help lighten the load on McCombs.

The Huskies essentially are starting from scratch on the line, where senior center Alex Mateas is the only returning starter. One of the most pleasant surprises of the spring was sophomore Andreas Knappe, who made the switch from defense and could earn the starting nod at right tackle.

STAT CORNER

42

Sacks allowed by UConn in 2013. The Huskies couldn't run and couldn't keep the quarterback upright, a bad combination.

DEFENSE Any success the Huskies had after upgrading their program and joining the Big East was built on defense. That reputation took a bit of a hit in 2013 when UConn slipped to No. 51 in the nation in total defense after a No. 9 ranking in 2012. The Huskies still shut down the rush but ranked 70th in turnover margin and 107th in team sacks.

Diaco, who built his reputation as a defensive coordinator at Cincinnati and Notre Dame, will have a nucleus of five returning starters and four talented defensive backs. The problem is depth behind the starters — corners Byron Jones and Jhavon Williams and safeties Obi Melifonwu and Andrew Adams. True freshman Jamar Summers could develop into a contributor.

Starters Angelo Pruitt and Julian Campenni return to anchor the defensive line. Senior tackle B.J. McBryde had a good spring, highlighted by an impressive spring game. Yawin Smallwood, UConn's leading tackler, departed for the NFL, leaving questions at the linebacker spot. Jefferson Ashiru and Marquise Vann bring the most experience, but Graham Stewart could emerge as an impact player.

SPECIALISTS Redshirt sophomore Bobby Puyol has waited patiently in the wings and finally gets his chance to handle the kicking duties, replacing consistent and reliable Chad Christen. There's a new punter as well. Justin Wain will take over for Cole Wagner. Diaco may go against tradition at the holder spot, opting for a skilled ball-handler to bring the threat of fakes into play.

FINAL ANALYSIS Diaco is working tirelessly to change the culture of UConn football, which has won a total of 13 games in the last three seasons — down from 24 in the previous three. He inherits a team that likely will reside in the bottom half of the American Athletic Conference. Diaco hopes to build off the brand created by the men's and women's national championship basketball teams, but this is not a one-year job. That's why Diaco was given a five-year contract worth $8 million.

GEREMY DAVIS

THE QUOTE

"They have to solidify the quarterback spot. Getting wide receiver Geremy Davis back is big. He's talented."

— An opposing American assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	**85**	**Geremy Davis (Sr.)**	88	Thomas Lucas (Fr.)
WR	**4**	**Deshon Foxx (Sr.)**	1	Dhameer Bradley (So.)
LT	71	Richard Levy (So.)	62	Tommy Hopkins (Fr.)
LG	76	Zach Rugg (So.)	65	Gus Cruz (Sr.)
C	**73**	**Alex Mateas (Sr.)**	68	Bryan Paull (Sr.)
RG	60	Tyler Samra (Jr.)	68	Bryan Paull (Sr.)
RT	53	Andreas Knappe (So.)	78	Dalton Gifford (Jr.)
TE	**49**	**Sean McQuillan (Jr.)**	80	Tommy Myers (Fr.)
QB	12	Casey Cochran (So.)	10	Chandler Whitmer (Sr.)
FB	34	Jazzmar Clax (So.)	36	Matthew Walsh (So.)
TB	**43**	**Lyle McCombs (Sr.)**	44	Max DeLorenzo (Jr.)

DEFENSE (5)

DE	**56**	**Angelo Pruitt (Sr.)**	95	Kenton Adeyemi (Jr.)
DT	97	B.J. McBryde (Sr.)	93	Folorunso Fatukasi (Fr.)
NG	**90**	**Julian Campenni (Jr.)**	92	Mikal Myers (So.)
DE	47	Reuben Frank (Sr.)	57	Cole Ormsby (Fr.)
OLB	2	Graham Stewart (Jr.)	10	Cameron Stapleton (Fr.)
MLB	**32**	**Jefferson Ashiru (Jr.)**	54	Omaine Stephens (So.)
OLB	46	Marquise Vann (Jr.)	55	Jon Hicks (So.)
CB	**16**	**Byron Jones (Sr.)**	5	Javon Hadley (So.)
CB	6	Jhavon Williams (So.)	21	Jamar Summers (Fr.)
SS	22	Andrew Adams (Jr.)	23	Wilbert Lee (Jr.)
FS	**20**	**Obi Melifonwu (So.)**	19	Ellis Marder (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	17	Bobby Puyol (So.)	**KR** 4	Deshon Foxx (Sr.)
P	42	Justin Wain (Fr.)	**PR** 4	Deshon Foxx (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Casey Cochran, 175-111-1,293-4, 11 TDs
Rushing: Lyle McCombs, 159 att., 670 yds., 5 TDs
Receiving: Geremy Davis, 71 rec., 1,085 yds., 3 TDs
Tackles: Obi Melifonwu, 70
Sacks: Reuben Frank, 2.0
Interceptions: Byron Jones, 3

[#] Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

UConn Athletics SID

EAST CAROLINA PIRATES

NATIONAL FORECAST **50**
AMERICAN PREDICTION **2**

Head Coach: Ruffin McNeill
Record at School: 29-22 (4 years)
Career Record: 30-22 (4+ years)
Offensive Coordinator: Lincoln Riley
Defensive Coordinator: Rick Smith
Greenville, NC
Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium (50,000)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 8-4, 7-1 (AMERICAN)

August	
30	North Carolina Central
September	
6	at South Carolina
13	at Virginia Tech
20	North Carolina
October	
4	SMU
11	at South Florida
23	Connecticut
November	
1	at Temple
13	at Cincinnati
22	Tulane
28	at Tulsa
December	
4	UCF

2013 RESULTS (10-3, 6-2)

Aug. 31	Old Dominion	W	52–38
Sept. 5	Florida Atlantic	W	31–13
Sept. 14	Virginia Tech	L	10–15
Sept. 28	at North Carolina	W	55–31
Oct. 5	at Middle Tennessee	W	24–17
Oct. 12	at Tulane (ot)	L	33–36
Oct. 19	Southern Miss	W	55–14
Nov. 2	at FIU	W	34–13
Nov. 9	Tulsa	W	58–24
Nov. 16	UAB	W	63–14
Nov. 23	at NC State	W	42–28
Nov. 29	at Marshall	L	28–59
Dec. 23	vs. Ohio #	W	37–20

#Beef 'O'Brady's Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Messiah Rice, OL, Orangeburg, SC
2. Quincy McKinney, OL, Columbus, GA*
3. Anthony Scott, RB, Virginia Beach, VA
4. Dontae Levingston, OL, Harbor City, CA*
5. Yiannis Bowden, OLB, Kernersville, NC
6. Ray Tillman, LB, Lithonia, GA
7. Corey Seargent, DB, Rock Hill SC
8. Blake Kemp, QB, Chandler, AZ*
9. Shaun James, DL, Virginia Beach, VA
10. Kyron Speller, LB, Virginia Beach, VA

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	C-USA	National
Scoring	40.2 ppg	2	8
Rushing	140.1 ypg	10	91
Passing	328.1 ypg	1	11
Total	468.2 ypg	2	25
Defense	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
Scoring	24.8 ppg	6	49
Rushing	116.7 ypg	1	13
Passing	252.1 ypg	12	93
Total	368.8 ypg	6	36
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
+8	+0.6	4	21

OFFENSE It's full speed ahead for the Pirates as they sail into the American Athletic Conference with what should be another offensive juggernaut. East Carolina was ranked second in Conference USA in total offense (468.2 ypg) and was eighth in the land with 40.2 points scored per game.

The 2013 Conference USA MVP (and long-shot 2014 Heisman hopeful), quarterback Shane Carden is back for his senior year, and he has already piled up a treasure chest of big numbers — 318.4 yards passing per game, a 70.5 completion percentage and 33 touchdowns, and that was just last year. His favorite target, talented Justin Hardy, is back after setting ECU records with 114 catches and 1,284 yards, and he is the first Pirate ever with back-to-back 1,000-yard receiving seasons.

Diminutive 5'8" senior Breon Allen was second on the team with 311 yards rushing, averaging 5.0 yards per carry. The little back will shoulder a bigger load this fall, with a lot of help from junior Chris Hairston.

The biggest concern is the offensive line. Big junior Tre Robertson, all 6'5", 310 pounds of him, is back at right tackle, and the Pirates hope to have promising Ike Harris on the left side after his shoulder completely heals from a February car accident. Redshirt freshman guard Larry Williams can also help.

STAT CORNER

34.2

The Pirates' average starting field position on offense, best in the country. The East Carolina defense forced three-and-outs and turnovers.

DEFENSE The Pirates had a defensive renaissance under first-year coordinator Rick Smith, who presided over C-USA's top run defense. Now Smith must replace eight starters in his 3-4 defense while he faces a more daunting schedule.

Chrishon Rose returns up front, although Rose is moving from nose tackle to end. Terrell Stanley, a potential all-conference end, missed spring as a result of the same car crash that sidelined Harris and likely will miss the 2014 season. Quick-footed nose tackle Terry Williams can be a force.

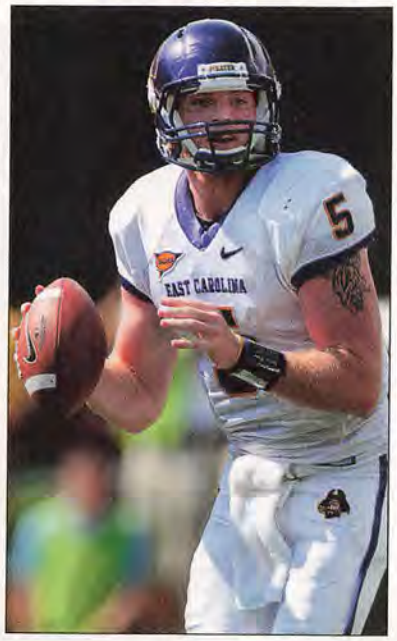
Keep an eye on athletic outside linebacker Montese Overton. The key, though, is inside linebacker Zeek Bigger, who was forced into the lineup by injuries and responded well. Already the signal-caller, Bigger will have a bigger role as a team leader alongside Brandon Williams in the middle.

Only boundary corner Detric Allen is back in the secondary, but there are some good pieces to rebuild around, including former walk-on Josh Hawkins, who had a spectacular offseason. Senior Lamar Ivey seems to have found a home at free safety, too.

SPECIALISTS Hardy and his 11.2-yard punt return average are back to anchor some experienced specialty units. Warren Harvey slumped by his high standards, hitting just 15-of-25 field-goal attempts, but he was money inside of 30 yards (10-of-11) and hit 61 of his whopping 63 PAT attempts. Weight-room wonder Worth Gregory, a transfer from Alabama, looks like the heir apparent at punter.

FINAL ANALYSIS Coach Ruffin McNeill has a good thing going at his alma mater, where the Pirates have had the wind at their backs since he arrived, sailing to three bowl appearances in four years. They capped a meaty 10-win season with a 37–20 victory over Ohio in the Beef 'O' Brady's Bowl, and now they're off to the American Athletic Conference — home to many of the Pirates' old C-USA rivals.

East Carolina already got a big offseason win, hanging on to offensive coordinator Lincoln Riley, who was pursued for the same job at some bigger programs. With the swashbuckling Carden at quarterback and the NFL-ready Hardy on the other end of his passes, the Pirates are primed for another big season. That is, if the defense rebounds from heavy losses and a rebuilding offensive line can come together to give Carden time.



SHANE CARDEN

THE QUOTE

"They've been doing the same system now for a long time, and they do it really well. Ruffin McNeill's got it going pretty good."

— An opposing American assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	9	Cam Worthy (Sr.)	85	Davon Grayson (So.)
WR	**7**	**Isaiah Jones (So.)**	8	Cedric Thompson (Jr.)
WR	**2**	**Justin Hardy (Sr.)**	80	Bryce Williams (Jr.)
WR	82	DaQuan Barnes (So.)	89	Brandon Bishop (So.)
LT	**69**	**Ike Harris (Jr.)**	76	Stewart Hinson (Jr.)
LG	55	Larry Williams (Fr.)	67	Will Foxx (Jr.)
C	74	Taylor Hudson (Sr.)	**50**	**C.J. Struyk (Jr.)**
RG	65	J.T. Boyd (So.)	71	Marquis Wallace (Sr.)
RT	**68**	**Tre Robertson (Jr.)**	62	Brandon Smith (Fr.)
QB	**5**	**Shane Carden (Sr.)**	6	Kurt Benkert (Fr.)
RB	25	Breon Allen (Sr.)	22	Chris Hairston (Jr.)

DEFENSE (3)

DE	94	Johnathon White (Jr.)	99	Fred Presley (So.)
NT	54	Terry Williams (Sr.)	96	Demetri McGill (So.)
DE	**93**	**Chrishon Rose (Sr.)**	99	Fred Presley (So.)
OLB	51	Montese Overton (Jr.)	41	Dayon Pratt (So.)
ILB	**20**	**Zeek Bigger (Jr.)**	55	Cameron White (So.)
ILB	24	Brandon Williams (Sr.)	34	Devaris Brunson (So.)
OLB	48	Maurice Falls (Sr.)	59	Reece Speight (So.)
CB	28	Josh Hawkins (Jr.)	6	DaShawn Benton (So.)
CB	**4**	**Detric Allen (Sr.)**	39	DaShaun Amos (So.)
FS	7	Lamar Ivey (Sr.)	19	Nate Mays (So.)
SS	31	Domonique Lennon (Jr.)	26	Terrell Richardson (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	14	Warren Harvey (Sr.)	KR 25	Breon Allen (Sr.)
P		Worth Gregory (So.)	PR 2	Justin Hardy (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Shane Carden, 549-387-4,139-10, 33 TDs
Rushing: Breon Allen, 62 att., 311 yds., 3 TDs
Receiving: Justin Hardy, 114 rec., 1,284 yds., 8 TDs
Tackles: Zeek Bigger, 77
Sacks: Terrell Stanley, 7.0
Interceptions: 6 players tied with 1

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

East Carolina SID

HOUSTON COUGARS

NATIONAL FORECAST 69
AMERICAN PREDICTION 4

Head Coach: Tony Levine
Record at School: 14-12 (2-plus years)
Career Record: 14-12 (2-plus years)
Offensive Coordinator: Travis Bush
Defensive Coordinator: David Gibbs
Houston, TX
Houston Football Stadium (40,000)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 8-4, 5-3 (AMERICAN)

August	
29	UTSA
September	
6	Grambling
11	at BYU
27	Tennessee Tech
October	
2	UCF
11	at Memphis
17	Temple
November	
1	at South Florida
8	Tulane
22	Tulsa
28	at SMU
December	
6	at Cincinnati

2013 RESULTS (8-5, 3-5)

Aug. 30	Southern	W	62-13
Sept. 7	at Temple	W	22-13
Sept. 21	at Rice	W	31-26
Sept. 28	at UTSA	W	59-28
Oct. 12	Memphis	W	25-15
Oct. 19	BYU	L	46-47
Oct. 26	at Rutgers	W	49-14
Oct. 31	South Florida	W	35-23
Nov. 9	at UCF	L	14-19
Nov. 16	at Louisville	L	13-20
Nov. 23	Cincinnati	L	17-24
Nov. 29	SMU	W	34-0
Jan. 4	vs. Vanderbilt #	L	24-41

#BBVA Compass Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Zach Vaughan, DE, Round Rock, TX
2. Carter Wall, OL, Richmond, CA*
3. Jeremy Winchester, S, Spring, TX
4. Matthew Adams, LB, Missouri City, TX
5. Tarrin Mitchell, CB, Dallas, TX
6. Latrell Martin, WR, Pflugerville, TX
7. Mason Denley, DE, Columbus, TX
8. Bear Fenimore, QB, Austin, TX
9. Elton Dyer, WR, Houston, TX
10. Kaliq Kokuma, RB, League City, TX

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	AAC	National
Scoring	33.2 ppg	3	38
Rushing	139.0 ypg	5	92
Passing	280.5 ypg	5	26
Total	419.5 ypg	5	55
Defense	**Per Game**	**AAC**	**National**
Scoring	21.8 ppg	4	20
Rushing	149.0 ypg	9	43
Passing	266.8 ypg	7	108
Total	415.8 ypg	9	79
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**AAC**	**National**
+25	+1.9	1	1

OFFENSE The Cougars are loaded with skill players who could comprise the American Athletic Conference's most explosive offense. As a freshman, John O'Korn showed UH why the future is promising by averaging 287.4 passing yards in his first seven career starts. But his production diminished late in the season as the Cougars faced better defenses (Cincinnati, Louisville and UCF). The offense became fairly predictable because of O'Korn's inexperience, and opponents pounced. But the Cougars believe O'Korn, a natural pocket passer, can thrive after a full offseason.

Wide receivers Deontay Greenberry and Daniel Spencer combined for 134 catches, nearly 2,000 yards and 17 touchdowns a year ago. They are both back. Greenberry might be the conference's best. Houston moved Greg Ward from quarterback to receiver, and coaches believe he can be effective in the open field. Markeith Ambles, the former high-profile recruit from USC, broke out in the bowl game against Vanderbilt. The Cougars have serious depth at receiver and often run four-wideout sets as a result.

The offensive line must adjust to the loss of starting left tackle Zach Johnson to a torn ACL in spring ball. Junior Alex Cooper will take over Johnson's spot. The Cougars must adapt without offensive coordinator Doug Meacham, who left for TCU. Houston promoted internally with Travis Bush as Meacham's replacement.

Houston can get creative with the running game with the tandem of Kenneth Farrow and Ryan Jackson at tailback and fullback Tyler McCloskey getting involved, too.

STAT CORNER

10

Games in which the Houston defense forced at least three turnovers last season. The Cougars recovered 18 fumbles and intercepted 25 passes in 13 games.

DEFENSE With eight starters returning, Houston's defensive plan is simple: Build on last year's opportunistic group that led the country in turnovers with 43, eight more than any other team in the nation. Defensive coordinator David Gibbs presided over one of the country's top turnarounds (118th in total defense in 2012). The Cougars could stand to improve the 266.8 passing yards allowed per game, but overall this is a playmaking group.

Houston was set to return its top nine defensive linemen before starting end Eric Braswell tore his ACL in spring camp. The staff doesn't want to change much about its 4-3 scheme but plans to refine what's already in place.

Linebacker Derrick Mathews has 39 career starts and even more big hits. He's a leader, as is safety Trevon Stewart. If there's one concern, at least on paper, it's cornerback. The Cougars lost two good starters. But UH feels good about its depth there with William Jackson, who has elite speed, Turon Walker and two experienced transfers — Marcus Dillard (junior college) and Tyler White (Utah).

SPECIALISTS Head coach Tony Levine has a long-standing special teams background, and Levine's hands are all over this unit. Houston was first in the American in kickoff returns — Demarcus Ayers averaged nearly 28 yards per kickoff — and second in punting. Kyle Bullard, who was 6-of-6 on field goals a year ago, appears to have the inside track over Ty Cummings for the starting job.

FINAL ANALYSIS There's a lot to like about Houston, which has acquitted itself well in the call-up from C-USA to the American. This year's schedule is manageable, and at least eight wins should be the expectation. Houston is a proud place — two of the country's most established coaches, Art Briles and Kevin Sumlin, were roaming UH sidelines not too long ago. This team always seems to thrive off quarterback play, so the question is whether O'Korn has peaked or is just lifting off. The latter appears to be the case. Playmaking is there on both sides of the ball. Houston should be in the conversation as preseason American favorites along with Cincinnati, East Carolina and UCF.

DEONTAY GREENBERRY

THE QUOTE

"They play reckless defense with David Gibbs. Created a lot of turnovers. Can they create so many again? That's hard to do twice."

— *An opposing American assistant coach*

OFFENSE (7)

WR	3	**Deontay Greenberry (Jr.)**	19	Shane Ros (Sr.)
WR	10	DeMarcus Ayers (So.)	1	Greg Ward Jr. (So.)
WR	4	**Daniel Spencer (Sr.)**	84	Wayne Beadle (Sr.)
WR	21	Markeith Ambles (Sr.)	85	John Leday (Fr.)
LT	60	Alex Cooper (Jr.)	**71**	**Zach Johnson (Jr.)**
LG	**74**	**Rowdy Harper (Sr.)**	76	Ja'Braylin Thomas (Fr.)
C	**58**	**Bryce Redman (Sr.)**	70	Mac Long (So.)
RG	72	Emeka Okafor (Jr.)	65	Carter Wall (Jr.)
RT	56	Damien Parris (Jr.)	79	Josh Thomas (Fr.)
QB	**5**	**John O'Korn (So.)**	9	Billy Cosh (Sr.)
RB	**35**	**Kenneth Farrow (Jr.)**	22	Ryan Jackson (Jr.)

DEFENSE (8)

DE	94	Cameron Malveaux (So.)	21	Eric Eiland (Jr.)
DT	**92**	**Joey Mbu (Sr.)**	96	Jeremiah Farley (Sr.)
DT	**95**	**Tomme Mark (Jr.)**	93	B.J. Singleton (So.)
DE	**46**	**Trevor Harris (Sr.)**	81	Tyus Bowser (So.)
LB	**41**	**Steve Taylor (So.)**	12	D'Juan Hines (Fr.)
LB	**49**	**Derrick Mathews (Sr.)**	44	Elandon Roberts (Jr.)
LB	**50**	**Efrem Oliphant (Sr.)**	8	Caleb Tucker (Fr.)
CB	5	Turon Walker (Sr.)	19	Marcus Dillard (Jr.)
CB	3	William Jackson (Jr.)	28	Tyler White (Jr.)
FS	**23**	**Trevon Stewart (Jr.)**	30	Earl Foster (Jr.)
SS	**16**	**Adrian McDonald (Jr.)**	21	Eric Eiland (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	39	Kyle Bullard (Jr.)	KR	10	Demarcus Ayers (So.)
P	38	Dylan Seibert (Jr.)	PR	1	Greg Ward Jr. (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: John O'Korn, 446-259-3,117-10, 28 TDs
Rushing: Ryan Jackson, 139 att., 661 yds., 6 TDs
Receiving: Deontay Greenberry, 82 rec., 1,202 yds., 11 TDs
Tackles: Efrem Oliphant, 134
Sacks: Derrick Mathews, 7.0
Interceptions: Adrian McDonald, 6

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

University of Houston SID

MEMPHIS TIGERS

NATIONAL FORECAST **98**
AMERICAN PREDICTION **8**

Head Coach: Justin Fuente
Record at School: 7-17 (2 years)
Career Record: 7-17 (2 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Darrell Dickey
Defensive Coordinator: Barry Odom
Memphis, TN
Liberty Bowl (59,308)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 5-7, 3-5 (AMERICAN)

August		
30	Austin Peay	
September		
6	at UCLA	
20	Middle Tennessee	
27	at Ole Miss	
October		
4	at Cincinnati	
11	Houston	
25	at SMU	
31	Tulsa	
November		
7	at Temple	
15	at Tulane	
22	South Florida	
29	Connecticut	

2013 RESULTS (3-9, 1-7)

Sept. 7	Duke	L	14-28
Sept. 14	at Middle Tennessee	L	15-17
Sept. 21	Arkansas State	W	31-7
Oct. 5	UCF	L	17-24
Oct. 12	at Houston	L	15-25
Oct. 19	SMU	L	29-34
Oct. 30	Cincinnati	L	21-34
Nov. 9	Tennessee-Martin	W	21-6
Nov. 16	at South Florida	W	23-10
Nov. 23	at Louisville	L	17-24
Nov. 30	Temple	L	21-41
Dec. 7	at Connecticut	L	10-45

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Shareef White, LB, Grenada, MS
2. Jarvis Cooper, RB, West Memphis, AR
3. Curtis Akins, LB, Byhalia, MS
4. Clay Holgorsen, QB, Katy, TX
5. Isadore Outing, DE, Houston, TX
6. Roderick Proctor, WR, Orlando, FL
7. Greg McKillion, WR, Blytheville, AR*
8. Noah Robinson, LB, Worcester, MA
9. Thomas Brown, LB, Gardena, CA*
10. Genard Avery, LB, Grenada, MS

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	AAC	National
Scoring	19.5 ppg	9	110
Rushing	138.3 ypg	6	95
Passing	173.2 ypg	9	105
Total	311.5 ypg	9	116
Defense	**Per Game**	**AAC**	**National**
Scoring	24.6 ppg	5	44
Rushing	116.3 ypg	4	12
Passing	254.3 ypg	6	97
Total	370.7 ypg	5	39
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**AAC**	**National**
-8	-0.7	9	107

OFFENSE Can a 6'6" quarterback encounter growing pains? It seems that's what Paxton Lynch went through last season as a redshirt freshman. Lynch was intercepted 10 times in 12 games and threw only nine touchdown passes. The strong-armed Florida native should be much more comfortable and productive this fall in an offense that is expected to play at an increased tempo. Lynch has worked on being more vocal and appears to have a firm grasp on an offense with returning starters throughout.

At running back, the Tigers will be led Brandon Hayes, who was granted a sixth year by the NCAA during the offseason. Hayes doesn't possess breakaway speed, but he's a candidate to approach 1,000 yards because of his gritty, hard-nosed running style. Sophomore Doroland Dorceus was the team's third-leading rusher and will push Hayes for the starting job. He isn't afraid to gain the punishing yards inside the tackles. Coach Justin Fuente also plans to give sophomore Sam Craft, mainly a receiver last fall, some additional carries. Craft, savvy beyond his years, tied Hayes for the team lead in rushing touchdowns (five) in 2013.

The receivers struggled to hang onto the football but should be improved. Joe Craig, Craft, Keiwone Malone and Tevin Jones — the team's top four wideouts — are back. Craig, a former Clemson player, gave the unit much-needed speed to stretch the field, yet he averaged only 9.1 yards per reception. Malone, an ex-Alabama player, averaged 12.4 yards per catch and appears primed for a breakout. The Tigers are intrigued by the potential of 6'5" junior college transfer Greg McKillion, the tallest of the wideouts, and 26-year-old sophomore tight end Tyler Kolodny, a former minor league baseball player, although neither has cracked the two-deep.

STAT CORNER

3.7

Average points per trip inside the 40 allowed by the Memphis defense, 12th in the country. Sadly, the Tigers' offense also averaged 3.7.

DEFENSE Word is out on the coaching ability of defensive coordinator Barry Odom, who has been pursued by major conference programs the past two seasons. Yet, Odom has remained on the Memphis staff to continue molding this unit, lifting it from the depths three years ago (117th in total defense) to 39th last fall.

Odom will have to replace his starting safeties but returns a majority of the defense. Most of the key contributors in the front seven are back, including defensive ends Ricky Hunter and Martin Ifedi and linebackers Charles Harris, Ryan Coleman and Jackson Dillon. Ifedi ranked among the nation's leaders in sacks, and he and Hunter should benefit from the hiring of defensive line coach Ricky Hunley, a former NFL player and assistant coach.

In the secondary, starting cornerbacks Bobby McCain and Andrew Gaines are back. McCain picked off six passes — the most in a single season at Memphis in 25 years — and returned two for touchdowns, including a 75-yarder against Duke.

SPECIALISTS Memphis must replace a consensus All-America punter in Tom Hornsey, but the Tigers return sophomore kicker Jake Elliott, who made an impression as a rookie. Elliott connected on 16-of-18 field goal attempts, including a school-record 56-yarder in a league win at South Florida, and earned first-team all-conference honors. The return game should be solid. Malone averaged 6.4 yards per punt return, and Craig averaged 26.8 yards per kickoff return. Memphis hasn't returned a kickoff for a touchdown since 1996.

FINAL ANALYSIS It appears all the elements are in place for the Tigers to make a move in the American Athletic Conference. Fuente has increased the tempo of his offense and has a quarterback who he believes can lead the charge. Defensively, the Tigers likely will improve further under the direction of Odom and make a run at bowl-eligibility for the first time since 2008.

BRANDON HAYES

THE QUOTE

"They played a lot of games close, so they aren't that far off, but I couldn't name one guy on offense that scares you."

— An opposing American assistant coach

OFFENSE (8)

WR	7	Keiwone Malone (Sr.)	**2**	**Joe Craig (Sr.)**
WR	**11**	**Sam Craft (So.)**	5	Mose Frazier (Jr.)
WR	**87**	**Tevin Jones (Jr.)**	33	Anthony Miller (Fr.)
LT	**77**	**Taylor Fallin (Jr.)**	76	Patrick Winfield (Fr.)
LG	79	Tyler Uselton (Jr.)	71	Gabe Kuhn (Fr.)
C	70	Micah Simmons (Jr.)	75	Michael Stannard (So.)
RG	67	Sam Thomas (So.)	64	Zach Collins (Fr.)
RT	**54**	**Al Bond (Sr.)**	66	Tony Mays (So.)
TE	**40**	**Alan Cross (Jr.)**	48	Robby Young (Fr.)
QB	**12**	**Paxton Lynch (So.)**	15	Jason Stewart (Jr.)
RB	**38**	**Brandon Hayes (Sr.)**	22	Doroland Dorceus (So.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	**91**	**Ricky Hunter (Jr.)**	96	Carl Mitchell (So.)
NT	56	Terry Redden (Sr.)	58	Donald Pennington (So.)
DE	**97**	**Martin Ifedi (Sr.)**	85	Latarius Brady (So.)
LB	**34**	**Jackson Dillon (So.)**	99	Kendrick Golden (Sr.)
LB	13	Tank Jakes (Sr.)	16	Wynton McManis (So.)
LB	**49**	**Charles Harris (Sr.)**	53	Leonard Pegues (Jr.)
LB	**44**	**Ryan Coleman (Sr.)**	29	Derek Howard (Sr.)
CB	**21**	**Bobby McCain (Sr.)**	10	Dontrell Nelson (So.)
CB	**28**	**Andrew Gaines (Sr.)**	37	Bakari Hollier (Sr.)
FS	39	Reggis Ball (Jr.)	33	Phillip Sumpter (Fr.)
SS	15	Fritz Etienne (Sr.)	27	Dion Witty (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	46	Jake Elliott (So.)	**KR**	2	Joe Craig (Sr.)
P	36	Spencer Smith (Fr.)	**PR**	7	Keiwone Malone (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Paxton Lynch, 349-203-2,056-10, 9 TDs
Rushing: Brandon Hayes, 201 att., 860 yds., 5 TDs
Receiving: Joe Craig, 37 rec., 338 yds., 0 TDs
Tackles: Charles Harris, 74
Sacks: Martin Ifedi, 11.5
Interceptions: Bobby McCain, 6

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Memphis SID

SMU MUSTANGS

NATIONAL FORECAST **96**
AMERICAN PREDICTION **7**

Head Coach: June Jones
Record at School: 36-41 (6 years)
Career Record: 112-82 (15 years)
Co-Offensive Coordinators: June Jones, Jason Phillips
Defensive Coordinator: Tom Mason
Dallas, TX
Gerald J. Ford Stadium (32,000)

2014 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 4-8, 3-5 (AMERICAN)

August	
31	at Baylor
September	
6	at North Texas
20	Texas A&M
27	TCU
October	
4	at East Carolina
18	Cincinnati
25	Memphis
November	
8	at Tulsa
15	South Florida
22	at UCF
29	Houston
December	
6	at Connecticut

2013 RESULTS (5-7, 4-4)

Aug. 30	Texas Tech		L	23–41
Sept. 7	Montana State		W	31–30
Sept. 21	at Texas A&M		L	13–42
Sept. 28	at TCU		L	17–48
Oct. 5	Rutgers	(ot)	L	52–55
Oct. 19	at Memphis		W	34–29
Oct. 26	Temple		W	59–49
Nov. 9	at Cincinnati		L	25–28
Nov. 16	Connecticut		W	38–21
Nov. 23	at South Florida		W	16–6
Nov. 29	at Houston		L	0–34
Dec. 7	UCF		L	13–17

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Daniel Gresham, RB, Fort Worth, TX
2. Courtland Sutton, DB, Brenham, TX
3. Shelby Walker, WR, Houston, TX
4. Darrel Colbert, QB, Houston, TX
5. Braylon Hyder, OL, Houston, TX
6. Inoke Ngalo, LB, Euless, TX
7. Jordan Ingram, WR, Dallas, TX
8. William Barns, OL, Dallas, TX
9. Anthony Rhone, LB, Texarkana, TX
10. Jordan Wyatt, DB, Wylie, TX

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	AAC	National
Scoring	26.8 ppg	5	76
Rushing	93.8 ypg	8	117
Passing	341.4 ypg	1	8
Total	435.2 ypg	4	41
Defense	**Per Game**	**AAC**	**National**
Scoring	33.3 ppg	10	99
Rushing	140.8 ypg	8	31
Passing	271.8 ypg	8	113
Total	412.6 ypg	7	72
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**AAC**	**National**
-7	-0.6	8	105

OFFENSE Having revived the passing game just in time for Garrett Gilbert's departure, the Mustangs must do the same with new quarterback Neal Burcham. The playbook will undergo significant revision. Burcham does not have the running ability or arm strength that made Gilbert No. 2 nationally in total offense. Burcham at least started the final two games for the injured Gilbert last season. Although he struggled in the no-huddle scheme in his first start against Houston (three interceptions in a 34–0 loss), he looked much better in the finale versus UCF with the offense tailored for him.

The young quarterback could benefit from an experienced line, but the Mustangs are thin up front with the loss of starters Ben Gottschalk and Sam Rice. Coach June Jones is counting on some freshmen, such as William Barns, to fill gaps.

The Mustangs also lack a proven running threat. Prescott Line, whose brother Zach ranks second on SMU's all-time yardage list, averaged 3.7 yards per carry as a freshman. But Kevin Pope, No. 2 in tackles at linebacker last season, finished the spring as the top back. He was granted another year of eligibility because of a medical hardship. True freshman Daniel Gresham, a powerful runner who was rated as the nation's No. 1 fullback, could make an immediate impact. Gresham originally committed to Louisville.

With the loss of two 1,000-yard receivers, senior Der'rikk Thompson and junior Darius Joseph will be Burcham's primary targets. Speedy Cedric Lancaster made a big impression in the spring. He and Jeremiah Gaines, who played a lot as a freshman, will assume bigger roles.

STAT CORNER

90

Tackles for a loss by the SMU defense in 2013. The Mustangs were aggressive but still ranked 98th in average yards allowed on first down.

DEFENSE Inexperience figured heavily in last year's defensive woes. With lessons learned from surrendering big plays, the secondary will at least have depth. Youngsters Darrion Richardson, Ajee Montes and A.J. Justice have flashed positive signs. At 6'5", 201, junior Shakiel Randolph has the tools to be among the league's best safeties, and senior Hayden Greenbauer provides a security blanket with his smart play.

The loss of leading tackler Randall Joyner was big because of his leadership skills. Linebackers Stephon Sanders, Jonathan Yenga and Robert Seals have the speed to force turnovers at the line or by dropping into coverage. Sophomore Nick Horton takes over for Pope at one of the middle spots.

Up front, Beau Barnes had a breakout junior season, spending much time in opposing backfields. He led the team with 13.0 tackles for a loss. Barnes and fellow veterans Zach Wood and Darrian Wright will blend well with sophomores Zelt Minor and Elie Nabushosi. Both of the youngsters got experience as rookies and should flourish in more prominent roles.

SPECIALISTS Aside from kicker Chase Hover, who tied the school record for field goals (18), the Mustangs were brutal on special teams last year. The loss of Hover means they must improve in every area while breaking in a new kicker and punter. Cody Rademacher is a candidate to take over both roles. A transfer from Air Force, he played in six games as a holder last season.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Mustangs came close to playing in their fifth straight bowl game despite a porous defense and virtually no running game in 2013. But they face even tougher obstacles with a new quarterback, a patchwork line and no proven running back. Best-case scenario, the defense plays over its head, buying some time for Burcham to develop, and the incoming class is better than advertised. A tough non-conference schedule complicates matters. The Mustangs open at Baylor's new stadium and then face other former Southwest Conference rivals Texas A&M and TCU.

DARIUS JOSEPH

Robbie Rakestraw/Athlon Sports

THE QUOTE

"They are always solid on offense, but it comes down to defense. It can be a problem for them. They just haven't been good enough."

— An opposing American assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	**7**	**Der'rikk Thompson (Sr.)**	88	Daijuan Stewart (So.)
WR	6	Stephen Nelson (Sr.)	3	Cedric Lancaster (Fr.)
WR	**18**	**Darius Joseph (Jr.)**	20	Nate Halverson (So.)
WR	84	Jeremiah Gaines (So.)	82	Everett Dickerson (Fr.)
LT	**71**	**Chauncey Briggs (So.)**	79	Seaver Myers (So.)
LG	79	Seaver Myers (So.)	52	Taylor Lasecki (Jr.)
C	**52**	**Taylor Lasecki (Jr.)**	51	William Barns (Fr.)
RG	67	Daniel McCarty (So.)	74	Christian Chamagua (So.)
RT	**75**	**Kris Weeks (Jr.)**	58	Taylor Reich (Jr.)
QB	12	Neal Burcham (So.)	14	Garrett Krstich (Jr.)
RB	3	Kevin Pope (Sr.)	**42**	**Prescott Line (So.)**

DEFENSE (6)

DE	**94**	**Beau Barnes (Sr.)**	92	Zelt Minor (So.)
NT	**54**	**Darrian Wright (Sr.)**	95	Andy McCleneghen (Jr.)
DE	**90**	**Zach Wood (Jr.)**	7	Elie Nabushosi (So.)
OLB	**23**	**Stephon Sanders (Sr.)**	25	Derek Longoria (Jr.)
ILB	5	Nick Horton (So.)	46	John Bordano (Sr.)
ILB	**1**	**Jonathan Yenga (Jr.)**	44	Jackson Mitchell (So.)
OLB	30	Robert Seals (Jr.)	57	Jordan Miller (Sr.)
CB	9	Horace Richardson (So.)	18	J'Marcus Rhodes (Fr.)
CB	24	J.R. Richardson (Jr.)	10	Ajee Montes (So.)
FS	**22**	**Hayden Greenbauer (Sr.)**	28	Shakiel Randolph (Jr.)
SS	29	Darrion Richardson (So.)	20	A.J. Justice (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	36	Cody Rademacher (Jr.)	**KR** 2	Deion Sanders Jr. (So.)
P	36	Cody Rademacher (Jr.)	**PR** 3	Kevin Pope (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Neal Burcham, 109-64-556-4, 2 TDs
Rushing: Prescott Line, 90 att., 332 yds., 3 TDs
Receiving: Darius Joseph, 103 rec., 808 yds., 5 TDs
Tackles: Stephon Sanders, 86
Sacks: Jonathan Yenga, 6
Interceptions: 5 players tied with 1

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

SOUTH FLORIDA BULLS

NATIONAL FORECAST **81**
AMERICAN PREDICTION **5**

Head Coach: Willie Taggart
Record at School: 2-10 (1 year)
Career Record: 18-30 (4 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Paul Wulff
Defensive Coordinator: Chuck Bresnahan
Tampa, FL
Raymond James Stadium (65,587)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 6-6, 5-3 (AMERICAN)

August	
30	Western Carolina
September	
6	Maryland
13	NC State
19	Connecticut
27	at Wisconsin
October	
11	East Carolina
18	at Tulsa
24	at Cincinnati
November	
1	Houston
15	at SMU
22	at Memphis
28	UCF

2013 RESULTS (2-10, 2-6)

Aug. 31	McNeese State	L	21–53
Sept. 7	at Michigan State	L	6–21
Sept. 14	Florida Atlantic	L	10–28
Sept. 28	Miami	L	21–49
Oct. 5	Cincinnati	W	26–20
Oct. 12	at Connecticut	W	13–10
Oct. 26	Louisville	L	3–34
Oct. 31	at Houston	L	23–35
Nov. 16	Memphis	L	10–23
Nov. 23	SMU	L	6–16
Nov. 29	at UCF	L	20–23
Dec. 7	at Rutgers	L	6–31

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Quinton Flowers, QB, Miami, FL
2. Kendall Sawyer, CB, Lehigh Acres, FL
3. Ryeshene Bronson, Ft. Myers, FL
4. Jimmy Bayes, ATH, Immokalee, FL
5. D'Ernest Johnson, RB, Immokalee, FL
6. Vincent Jackson, DE, Tampa, FL
7. Jamie Byrd, DB, Dade City, FL*
8. Demetrius Hill, DE, Kankakee, IL*
9. Marlon Mack, RB, Sarasota, FL
10. Tyre McCants, WR, Niceville, FL

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	AAC	National
Scoring	13.8 ppg	10	120
Rushing	88.7 ypg	9	118
Passing	166.8 ypg	10	108
Total	255.5 ypg	10	121
Defense	**Per Game**	**AAC**	**National**
Scoring	28.6 ppg	6	73
Rushing	139.8 ypg	7	28
Passing	211.0 ypg	2	26
Total	350.8 ypg	3	21
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**AAC**	**National**
-4	-0.3	5	86

OFFENSE Willie Taggart's mantra — "Do Something!" — seemed like a hollow promise through most of last season. Offensively, USF did very little. The Bulls managed just 11 offensive touchdowns.

Taggart, in his first season after arriving from Western Kentucky, was stunned by that development. In retrospect, he was mostly coaching players he didn't recruit, athletes who came to USF expecting to play a different style. The first season is over, though, and Taggart has promised vast improvement.

It starts with the quarterback, where Taggart wants to see intelligence, mobility and toughness. Sophomore Mike White, seemingly ticketed for a redshirt year, started the last five games and showed enough flashes to make Taggart believe better days were ahead.

Without a running game, Taggart's bruising style won't get off the ground. It's still not known whether USF possesses a go-to runner, although senior Michael Pierre and sophomore Darius Tice had promising moments. It looks like a position-by-committee.

Taggart believes the offensive line will be better after an offseason in the weight room. Four starters return, paced by three-year starting center Austin Reiter.

Although the Bulls hope to become a run-first offense, Taggart wants to take his shots down the field. Senior receiver Andre Davis is the team's primary option. The continued development at tight end, with junior Sean Price and senior Mike McFarland, also bears watching.

STAT CORNER

8.5

Average yards to go for USF on third downs, easily the worst in the country. The Bulls struggled on first and second down far too often.

DEFENSE By the end of last season, the Bulls' defense was playing exceptionally well, finishing the year ranked No. 21 in the nation. Learning the system of Chuck Bresnahan, while incorporating a handful of young players, the Bulls matured into a unit that ran to the ball and created turnovers.

It began up front with pressure, but after losing much of their defensive line depth, the Bulls must hope for more youthful contributions. Sophomore Derrick Calloway, the prize of Taggart's first recruiting class in 2013, is expected to rule the interior while getting help from experienced junior Todd Chandler.

Senior outside linebacker Reshard Cliett, last season's second-leading tackler, is expected to help fill the leadership chasm created by the loss of middle linebacker DeDe Lattimore, a four-year starter. The Bulls are equally enthused by the emergence of Nigel Harris, who became a freshman starter and showed no sign of nerves.

At one point late last season, the secondary played with four freshmen. That's bound to pay off with sophomores such as Nate Godwin, Johnny Ward, Hassan Childs and Lamar Robbins playing with unmistakable confidence. But the biggest impact might come from junior college transfer Jamie Byrd, a take-no-prisoners strong safety.

SPECIALISTS Placekicker Marvin Kloss began last season trying to replace Maikon Bonani, the school's all-time leading scorer. Kloss ended last season as one of three finalists for the Lou Groza Award. Meanwhile, Mattias Ciabatti had a successful first season as the starting punter, averaging 40.2 yards, getting 20 punts inside the 20 and having 14 of 50 yards or greater.

FINAL ANALYSIS Give Taggart credit for this: Even after a horrendous 53–21 home loss against McNeese State to open the season, even after watching his offense struggle mightily just to move the chains, he remained undaunted. He insists his approach will work. It just needs patience and hard work.

The up-and-coming program that once upset the likes of Notre Dame, Auburn, Clemson and West Virginia? That's now ancient history. USF must rebuild from the ground up. The intermediate goal is obvious. If Taggart can coax USF's first bowl trip since 2010, then the Bulls are definitely on their way back.

MIKE WHITE

THE QUOTE

"Willie Taggart's a good coach, you can tell. They went from awful to much better late in the year. They've bought in there."

— An opposing American assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	**7**	**Andre Davis (Sr.)**	82	Jordan Duval (Sr.)
WR	83	Deonte Welch (Sr.)	**88**	**Chris Dunkley (Sr.)**
LT	**76**	**Darrell Williams (Sr.)**	75	Kofi Amichia (So.)
LG	64	Thor Jozwiak (Jr.)	56	Clavion Nelson (Jr.)
C	**78**	**Austin Reiter (Sr.)**	74	Cameron Ruff (Fr.)
RG	**70**	**Quinterrius Eatmon (Sr.)**	61	Dominique Threatt (So.)
RT	**66**	**Brynjar Gudmundsson (Jr.)**	71	Mak Djulbegovic (Jr.)
TE	**12**	**Sean Price (Jr.)**	80	Mike McFarland (Sr.)
QB	14	Mike White (So.)	2	Steven Bench (Jr.)
FB	47	Kennard Swanson (Fr.)	42	Corian Hamilton (Jr.)
RB	45	Michael Pierre (Sr.)	37	Rodney Watson (Sr.)

DEFENSE (3)

DE	91	Eric Lee (Jr.)	9	Demetrius Hill (Jr.)
DT	95	Todd Chandler (Jr.)	10	Deadrin Senat (Fr.)
DT	8	Derrick Calloway (So.)	60	Bruce Hector (Fr.)
DE	**53**	**Elkino Watson (Sr.)**	63	Daniel Awoleke (Jr.)
OLB	**16**	**Reshard Cliett (Sr.)**	52	Zack Bullock (Jr.)
MLB	51	Tashon Whitehurst (Jr.)	43	Auggie Sanchez (Fr.)
OLB	57	Nigel Harris (So.)	18	Rahmon Swain (Sr.)
CB	24	Johnny Ward (So.)	30	Jalen Spencer (So.)
CB	21	Torrel Saffold (Sr.)	6	Lamar Robbins (So.)
FS	**36**	**Nate Godwin (So.)**	22	Hassan Childs (So.)
SS	2	Jamie Byrd (Jr.)	37	Trevon Griffin (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	27	Marvin Kloss (Sr.)	**KR**	88	Chris Dunkley (Sr.)
P	49	Mattias Ciabatti (Jr.)	**PR**	88	Chris Dunkley (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Mike White, 175-93-1,083-9, 3 TDs
Rushing: Darius Tice, 35 att., 141 yds., 0 TDs
Receiving: Andre Davis, 49 rec., 735 yds., 2 TDs
Tackles: Reshard Cliett, 56
Sacks: Elkino Watson, 1.5
Interceptions: Hassan Childs, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

University of South Florida SID

TEMPLE OWLS

NATIONAL FORECAST **100**
AMERICAN PREDICTION **10**

Head Coach: Matt Rhule
Record at School: 2-10 (1 year)
Career Record: 2-10 (1 year)
Offensive Coordinator: Marcus Satterfield
Defensive Coordinator: Phil Snow
Philadelphia, PA
Lincoln Financial Field (68,532)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 3-9, 2-6 (AMERICAN)

August	
28	at Vanderbilt
September	
6	Navy
20	Delaware State
27	at Connecticut
October	
11	Tulsa
17	at Houston
25	at UCF
November	
1	East Carolina
7	Memphis
15	at Penn State
29	Cincinnati
December	
6	at Tulane

2013 RESULTS (2-10, 1-7)

Aug. 31	at Notre Dame	L	6–28
Sept. 7	Houston	L	13–22
Sept. 14	Fordham	L	29–30
Sept. 28	at Idaho	L	24–26
Oct. 5	Louisville	L	7–30
Oct. 11	at Cincinnati	L	20–38
Oct. 19	Army	W	33–14
Oct. 26	at SMU	L	49–59
Nov. 2	at Rutgers	L	20–23
Nov. 16	UCF	L	36–39
Nov. 23	Connecticut	L	21–28
Nov. 30	at Memphis	W	41–21

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Cequan Jefferson, CB, Richmond, VA
2. Anthony Davis, CB, Monroeville, PA
3. Aaron Ruff, OL, Philadelphia, PA
4. Delvon Randall, WR, Monroeville, PA
5. Shahid Lovett, DB, Vineland, NJ*
6. Lenny Williams, ATH, McKees Rocks, PA
7. Freddie Booth-Lloyd, DL, Cocoa, FL
8. Shamir Bearfield, DB, Jersey City, NJ
9. Michael Dogbe, DE, Morris Plains, NJ
10. Frank Nutile, QB, Ramsey, NJ

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	AAC	National
Scoring	24.9 ppg	7	88
Rushing	149.3 ypg	3	81
Passing	249.7 ypg	6	46
Total	399.0 ypg	6	74
Defense	**Per Game**	**AAC**	**National**
Scoring	29.8 ppg	8	82
Rushing	175.0 ypg	10	76
Passing	298.6 ypg	9	119
Total	473.6 ypg	10	108
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**AAC**	**National**
-6	-0.5	6	97

OFFENSE The Owls, who've been looking for a long-term solution at quarterback for what feels like forever, appear to have finally found their guy in P.J. Walker. He took over as a true freshman last October, and the offense gradually improved as the year progressed. Walker averaged 330 passing yards with a combined nine touchdowns and three interceptions in the last three games.

Now, Temple must put more playmakers around him, especially since Robbie Anderson — who led the team with nine touchdown catches — is no longer around. Sophomore Khalif Herbin, who redshirted last year after playing as a true freshman in 2012, could be one of the answers. But there's no shortage of candidates. Senior Jalen Fitzpatrick (38 receptions) is the leading returning receiver statistically.

A consistent running game would obviously ease the burden on Walker and the passing attack. The Owls had their issues there, particularly in short-yardage situations. Senior Kenny Harper and sophomore Zaire Williams combined for 1,146 yards and 12 scores, but this is far from an area of strength.

Coming up with a cohesive unit up front will be a work in progress, and bodies figure to get moved around as part of that effort. Junior Kyle Friend is the anchor at center. Redshirt freshman Leon Johnson is being counted on at left tackle. Depth is a concern.

STAT CORNER

5.9

Temple's offensive yards per play in AAC games, fourth in the conference. Unfortunately, the Owls' defense allowed a league-worst 6.4 yards per play.

DEFENSE The most glaring needs — and these have been familiar themes in recent years — are developing a pass rush and improving secondary play, primarily at safety. Those deficiencies cost the Owls in several big spots last year. So Sharif Finch, who was a linebacker, is now an end on a line that has seven freshmen and sophomores listed among the two-deep. The coaching staff is high on newcomer Michael Dogbe on the edge.

Linebacker Tyler Matakevich led the nation in solo tackles (106) in 2013 as a sophomore. Nate D. Smith, who patrols the middle, was second on the team with 81 total tackles.

Cornerback Anthony Robey had his moments, but as a group the defensive backs have to do better than three interceptions. Several mid-year junior college transfers — most notably Shahid Lovett and Alex Wells — are being counted on to provide immediate help for the much-maligned back line.

SPECIALISTS Amazingly, the Owls made only 3-of-9 field goals. And two were in the final game. They also missed five extra points. Nick Visco, who hit all three of the team's field goals, left the program after his freshman season. That means the job is sophomore Jim Cooper's to lose. The Owls also have to replace dependable punter Paul Layton, who spent one season on North Broad as a graduate transfer. The return game could use a boost; the Owls ranked eighth in the league in both punt and kick returns.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Owls made the switch from Steve Addazio's run-first philosophy to Matt Rhule's more wide-open approach, and the transition was far from smooth. Temple slumped to 2–10, the program's worst record since 2006. But it wasn't a complete disaster: Seven of the losses were by 10 points or fewer and four by three or fewer, including three on long, late passes. The Owls led by 21 in two losses. A few defensive plays at the right time could have led to another win or two.

Rhule was on the staff when Temple won 26 games while in the MAC from 2009-11. He's confident that it can happen again, perhaps even soon. A lot depends on Walker's continued progress. And the defense, which ranked last — by a wide margin — in the league, must improve considerably for Temple to take a step forward in the American Athletic Conference.

P.J. WALKER

Bruce Schwartzman/Athlon Sports

THE QUOTE

"They kicked three field goals last year and only had three interceptions. Hard to win that way. But they will be better."

— An opposing American assistant coach

OFFENSE (4)

WR	82	Tyler Karpinski (So.)	83	Derrek Thomas (Fr.)
WR	10	Khalif Herbin (So.)	88	Sam Benjamin (So.)
WR	**5**	**Jalen Fitzpatrick (Sr.)**	7	John Christopher (Jr.)
LT	53	Leon Johnson (Fr.)	67	Semaj Reed (Fr.)
LG	68	Brendan McGowan (So.)	65	Adam Metz (Sr.)
C	**79**	**Kyle Friend (Jr.)**	70	Jacob Quinn (Jr.)
RG	70	Jacob Quinn (Jr.)	61	Peter Calderone (Jr.)
RT	71	Eric Lofton (Jr.)	69	Adrian Sullivan (Fr.)
TE	97	Wanemi Omuso (Sr.)	89	Cole Boozer (Fr.)
QB	**11**	**P.J. Walker (So.)**	12	Connor Reilly (So.)
RB	**20**	**Kenny Harper (Sr.)**	23	Zaire Williams (So.)

DEFENSE (5)

DE	90	Bryan Osei (So.)	46	Jullian Taylor (Fr.)
DT	**95**	**Matt Ioannidis (Jr.)**	94	Kiser Terry (So.)
NT	73	Averee Robinson (So.)	97	Brian Carter (Fr.)
DE	56	Sharif Finch (So.)	33	Haason Reddick (So.)
WLB	**8**	**Tyler Matakevich (Jr.)**	30	Buddy Brown (Fr.)
MLB	**35**	**Nate D. Smith (Jr.)**	14	Jarred Alwan (So.)
SLB	**29**	**Stephaun Marshall (So.)**	31	Michael Felton (Jr.)
CB	25	Tavon Young (Jr.)	10	Cequan Jefferson (Fr.)
CB	**2**	**Anthony Robey (Sr.)**	16	Artrel Foster (Fr.)
FS	21	Alex Wells (Jr.)		Shahid Lovertt (Jr.)
SS	25	Jihaad Pretlow (So.)	37	Boye Aromire (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	38	Jim Cooper Jr. (So.)	KR 10	Khalif Herbin (So.)
P	95	Tyler Mayes (Jr.)	PR 10	Khalif Herbin (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: P.J. Walker, 250-152-2,084-8, 20 TDs
Rushing: Kenny Harper, 136 att., 613 yds., 9 TDs
Receiving: Jalen Fitzpatrick, 38 rec., 429 yds., 3 TDs
Tackles: Tyler Matakevich, 137
Sacks: Nate D. Smith, 3.0; Matt Ioannidis, 3.0
Interceptions: Tyler Matakevich, 1; Tavon Young, 1

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

TULANE GREEN WAVE

NATIONAL FORECAST 99
AMERICAN PREDICTION 9

Head Coach: Curtis Johnson
Record at School: 9-16 (2 years)
Career Record: 9-16 (2 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Eric Price
Co-Defensive Coordinators: Jon Sumrall, Lionel Washington
New Orleans, LA
Yulman Stadium (30,000)

2014 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 3-9, 2-6 (AMERICAN)

August		
28	at Tulsa	
September		
6	Georgia Tech	
13	SE Louisiana	
20	at Duke	
27	at Rutgers	
October		
11	Connecticut	
18	at UCF	
31	Cincinnati	
November		
8	at Houston	
15	Memphis	
22	at East Carolina	
December		
6	Temple	

2013 RESULTS (7-6, 5-3)

Aug. 29	Jackson State		W	34-7
Sept. 7	South Alabama		L	39-41
Sept. 12	at Louisiana Tech		W	24-15
Sept. 21	at Syracuse		L	17-52
Sept. 28	at UL Monroe		W	31-14
Oct. 5	North Texas		W	24-21
Oct. 12	East Carolina	(ot)	W	36-33
Oct. 26	Tulsa		W	14-7
Nov. 2	at Florida Atlantic		L	17-34
Nov. 9	at UTSA		L	7-10
Nov. 23	UTEP		W	45-3
Nov. 30	at Rice		L	13-17
Dec. 21	vs. UL Lafayette#		L	21-24

#New Orleans Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Rae Juan Marbley, LB, Destrehan, LA
2. Raul Diaz, C, Miami, FL
3. Devon Johnson, OL, Amite, LA
4. Andrew DiRocco, K, Fort Lauderdale, FL
5. Dontrell Hilliard, RB, Baton Rouge, LA
6. Zachery Harris, LB, New Orleans, LA
7. Leondre James, ATH, Donaldsonville, LA
8. Glen Cuiellette, QB, Mandeville, LA
9. Kendall Ardoin, TE, Ville Platte, LA
10. Daren Williams, DL, Reseve, LA

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	C-USA	National
Scoring	24.8 ppg	8	90
Rushing	126.8 ypg	11	101
Passing	184.9 ypg	10	101
Total	311.8 ypg	12	115
Defense	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
Scoring	21.4 ppg	2	18
Rushing	123.7 ypg	3	17
Passing	228.4 ypg	10	62
Total	352.1 ypg	3	22
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
+11	+0.8	2	15

OFFENSE Look at the anemic offensive numbers, and it's hard to believe Tulane won seven games to end a 10-year string of losing seasons. Then look at the two key players who won't be back from that offense, and it's easy to see how the Green Wave could fall short of .500 this season as they move from Conference USA to the American Athletic Conference.

Tulane finished 115th nationally in total offense and lost leading running back Orleans Darkwa (863 yards) along with top receiver Ryan Grant (1,039 yards). The Green Wave need dramatic improvement at quarterback, where redshirt freshman Tanner Lee emerged as the frontrunner in the spring. Lee has a quicker release and more arm strength than senior Nick Montana and better accuracy than sophomore Devin Powell. Montana looked nothing like his legendary father Joe in 11 starts last season. Playing most of the season with an injured throwing shoulder, he completed only 53.4 percent of his throws and was benched during the New Orleans Bowl.

Redshirt freshman running back Sherman Badie provides the breakaway threat Tulane lacked in coach Curtis Johnson's first two seasons. He could form an effective tandem with senior Rob Kelley, a power back who sat out spring drills for academic reasons. Justyn Shackleford heads a group of returning receivers who regressed from 2012, due in large part to the poor quarterback play.

The offensive line improved significantly from 2012, when Tulane rushed for the second-fewest yards (475) of any team this century, but the blocking still needs to get better.

STAT CORNER

87

Passes either intercepted or broken up by Tulane's defense in 2013, second in the country. The Green Wave controlled the air.

DEFENSE Tulane had one of the best defenses in school history, ranking 22rd nationally in yards allowed (352.1 ypg), sixth in yards per carry allowed (3.2) and tied for second in turnovers forced (35). It was a remarkable improvement from 2012, when the Wave ranked 114th (482.6 ypg) in total defense.

With six of the top nine tacklers gone, a slight drop-off is likely. It will not be easy to replace talented tackle Julius Warmsley and mammoth nose guard Chris Davenport. The unexpected dismissal of versatile nickel corner Jordan Batiste, who led the team with seven sacks and four forced fumbles, will hurt, too.

Still, plenty of talent remains. Big-play cornerback Lorenzo Doss was a first-team all-conference selection after intercepting seven passes, running his two-year total to 12. Senior safety Sam Scofield led the Green Wave with 104 tackles, including 9.5 for a loss.

Conference USA co-Freshman of the Year Nico Marley, the grandson of reggae singer Bob Marley and the son of former Miami star Rohan Marley, is a 5'8", 180-pound linebacker — yes, linebacker — who had 67 tackles. Junior end Royce LaFrance is primed for a big year after registering 6.5 sacks in his first season as a starter.

SPECIALISTS Tulane will miss 2012 Lou Groza Award winner Cairo Santos, although he was not as consistent as in 2012, when he was perfect on field goals. The Wave are counting on freshman Andrew DiRocco to replace him. Punter Peter Picerelli averaged 41.5 yards per kick.

FINAL ANALYSIS Was the 2013 success a legitimate breakthrough or the product of a weak schedule? Tulane's move to the more competitive American Athletic Conference will provide that answer. On paper, the Green Wave could be an underdog to eight or nine of their 2014 opponents. Of course, the Wave were favored only three times last year, so Johnson is used to that role. Recruiting heavily in South Louisiana, he and his staff have upgraded the talent level significantly. The program is on the upswing, but the record may not reflect that growth as Tulane moves to an on-campus stadium (Yulman Stadium) for the first time in 40 years.

LORENZO DOSS

Tulane Athletics

THE QUOTE

"They've upped their talent under Curtis Johnson. They are closer to competing in the American than they would have been a few years ago."

— An opposing American assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	**80**	**Justyn Shackleford (Sr.)**	8	Devon Breaux (So.)
WR	82	Xavier Rush (Sr.)	9	Kedrick Banks (So.)
LT	**75**	**Arturo Uzdavinis (Jr.)**	78	Todd Jacquet (Jr.)
LG	61	Colton Hanson (So.)	73	Alex Paul (So.)
C	**66**	**Nathan Shienle (So.)**	50	Brandon Godfrey (Fr.)
RG	75	Chris Taylor (So.)	71	Jason Stewart (Fr.)
RT	**70**	**Sean Donnelly (Sr.)**	76	Nate Skold (Jr.)
TE	**88**	**Matt Marfisi (Sr.)**	81	Sydie London (Jr.)
QB	12	Tanner Lee (Fr.)	1	Devin Powell (So.)
FB	33	Lazedrick Thompson (So.)	22	Marshall Wadleigh (So.)
RB	3	Sherman Badie (Fr.)	28	Rob Kelley (Sr.)

DEFENSE (5)

DE	**48**	**Royce LaFrance (Jr.)**	41	Aaron Bryant (Jr.)
DT	77	Tanzel Smart (So.)	99	Calvin Thomas (So.)
NT	96	Corey Redwine (Jr.)	93	Kenny Welcome (Sr.)
DE	43	Tyler Gilbert (Sr.)	53	Andre Robinson (Sr.)
MLB	52	Eric Thomas (So.)	7	Edward Williams (So.)
WLB	**20**	**Nico Marley (So.)**	45	Matthew Bailey (Sr.)
NB	**2**	**Darion Monroe (Jr.)**	34	Jarrod Franklin (So.)
CB	4	Taurean Nixon (Sr.)	23	Richard Allen (So.)
CB	**6**	**Lorenzo Doss (Jr.)**	13	William Townsend (Fr.)
SS	10	Leonard Davis (So.)	27	Richard Carthon (Jr.)
FS	**35**	**Sam Scofield (Sr.)**	5	Brandon LeBeau (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K		Andrew DiRocco (Fr.)	**KR** 9	Kedrick Banks (So.)
P	83	Peter Picerelli (Jr.)	**PR** 9	Kedrick Banks (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Nick Montana, 296-158-1,717-10, 14 TDs
Rushing: Rob Kelley, 98 att., 420 yds., 3 TDs
Receiving: Justyn Shackleford, 36 rec., 419 yds., 5 TDs
Tackles: Sam Scofield, 104
Sacks: Royce LaFrance, 6.5
Interceptions: Lorenzo Doss, 7

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

TULSA GOLDEN HURRICANE

NATIONAL FORECAST **102**
AMERICAN PREDICTION **11**

Head Coach: Bill Blankenship
Record at School: 22-17 (3 years)
Career Record: 22-17 (3 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Denver Johnson
Defensive Coordinator: Brent Guy
Tulsa, OK
H.A. Chapman Stadium (30,000)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 2-10, 1-7 (AMERICAN)

August	
28	Tulane
September	
6	Oklahoma
13	at Florida Atlantic
27	Texas State
October	
4	at Colorado State
11	at Temple
18	South Florida
31	at Memphis
November	
8	SMU
14	at UCF
22	at Houston
28	East Carolina

2013 RESULTS (3-9, 2-6)

Aug. 29	at Bowling Green		L	7–34
Sept. 7	Colorado State		W	30–27
Sept. 14	at Oklahoma		L	20–51
Sept. 26	Iowa State		L	21–38
Oct. 5	Rice	(ot)	L	27–30
Oct. 12	at UTEP		W	34–20
Oct. 26	at Tulane		L	7–14
Nov. 2	UTSA		L	15–34
Nov. 9	at East Carolina		L	24–58
Nov. 14	Marshall		L	34–45
Nov. 23	at Louisiana Tech		W	24–14
Nov. 30	North Texas		L	10–42

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Petera Wilson, LB, Memphis, TN
2. Jabe Burgess, QB, Greenwood, AR
3. Willie Wright, DT, Houston, TX
4. Nigel Carter, WR, Tulsa, OK
5. Tavarreon Dickerson, RB, Arlington, TX*
6. Tyler Bowling, OL, Yukon, OK
7. Michael Rios, DT, Wichita, KS
8. Earl Rollins, DT, Irving, TX
9. Mildren Montgomery, OL, Oklahoma City, OK
10. Jordan Dennis, DB, Fayetteville, AR

* junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	C-USA	National
Scoring	21.1 ppg	10	102
Rushing	164.8 ypg	8	69
Passing	191.4 ypg	9	99
Total	356.2 ypg	9	100
Defense	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
Scoring	33.9 ppg	9	101
Rushing	198.9 ypg	8	95
Passing	230.7 ypg	11	65
Total	429.6 ypg	9	93
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
-10	-0.8	12	112

Tulsa SID

OFFENSE Tulsa's football program took a huge step backward in 2013, with offense the main culprit. The Golden Hurricane scored more than 30 points only twice en route to a 3–9 season. In 2012, when Tulsa captured the Conference USA championship and a Liberty Bowl victory, the offense surpassed that mark eight times.

"We have to be more physical and simply get more production on offense," fourth-year coach Bill Blankenship says.

Part-time starting quarterback Dane Evans gets the first opportunity to guide the unit. Evans started five games last season and completed only 84-of-195 passes for 898 yards. He had four touchdown passes compared to 10 interceptions. He is expected to get pressed by Joseph Calcagni and true freshman Jabe Burgess.

Tulsa has had stability at running back since 2005, but that changes as the Hurricane must replace Trey Watts, who finished with 3,515 career yards, and backup Ja'Terian Douglas. A pair of sophomores will get close looks. James Flanders only had two carries last season but enters fall camp atop the depth chart. He is expected to be challenged by highly touted junior college transfer Tavarreon Dickerson.

Keyarris Garrett, who suffered a season-ending leg injury in the second game last year, is expected to anchor the wide receiver position. Garrett had 67 catches for 845 yards and nine touchdowns in 2012. Talented sophomore Keevan Lucas (32 catches, 442 yards, one TD) returns. Look for Derek Patterson and Zach Epps to contribute as well.

The offensive line, so inexperienced last season, is looking for improvement. Garrett Stafford (left tackle), Dylan Foxworth (center) and Davis Walton (right tackle) will form the unit's nucleus.

STAT CORNER

-13.6

Change in Tulsa's offensive points per game from 2012 to '13. The Golden Hurricane's offense was neither efficient nor explosive.

DEFENSE Nine starters return for the Hurricane, but the one who doesn't is C-USA Defensive Player of the Year Shawn Jackson. "He is one of the greatest players we've had here, but we have 10 other spots where we are returning depth and not just individual starters," Blankenship says. "The secondary has a chance to be special."

Tulsa traditionally has fought a numbers game on the defensive line, but Blankenship should be able to rotate more players at the position this season. Defensive ends Derrick Alexander (team-high 6.5 sacks) and Chris Hummingbird (three sacks) should provide a steady pass rush, while Derrick Luetjen (49 tackles) has proven himself a run-stopper on the line.

Many different faces could get looks at linebacker. Trent Martin, who played in only five games last year, will be expected to provide leadership. Mitchell Osborne had 83 tackles last year, and Donnell Hawkins added 50 stops.

The secondary will be highlighted by the return of free safety Demarco Nelson, who sat out 2013 to focus on academics. Nelson, a preseason first-team All-C-USA pick last year, has 239 career tackles and eight interceptions. Strong safety Michael Mudoh had a team-high 133 tackles. Cornerback Darnell Walker had four interceptions, the most by any returning player.

SPECIALISTS Carl Salazar solved Tulsa's two-year search for a placekicker by connecting on 16-of-19 field-goal attempts last season, including an early season game-winner at Colorado State. Dalton Parks will return for punting duties.

FINAL ANALYSIS Tulsa won a conference championship in 2012 and finished with only three victories in 2013, the lowest total since a one-win campaign in 2002. TU will try to regroup in its inaugural season in the American Athletic Conference. The defense should be improved, but there are concerns on offense, especially at quarterback. Tulsa appears headed toward a second straight losing season.

DERRICK ALEXANDER

THE QUOTE

"I don't know if some of their players left or recruiting fell off, but the offense just wasn't up to Tulsa standards."

— An opposing assistant coach

OFFENSE (4)

WR	1	Keyarris Garrett (Jr.)	86	Zach Epps (Jr.)
WR	2	Keevan Lucas (So.)	80	Conner Floyd (Jr.)
WR	11	Derek Patterson (Jr.)	88	Josh Atkinson (So.)
LT	**76**	**Garrett Stafford (Jr.)**	78	Blake Belcher (So.)
LG	63	Chris Wallace (So.)	54	James Floyd (So.)
C	**57**	**Dylan Foxworth (So.)**	53	Zac Uhles (Fr.)
RG	68	Garrett Gladd (Jr.)	73	Rob Boyd (Fr.)
RT	**75**	**Davis Walton (Sr.)**	66	Evan Plagg (Fr.)
TE	**90**	**Tyler Wilson (So.)**	85	Kolton Shindelar (So.)
QB	9	Dane Evans (So.)	18	Joseph Calcagni (Jr.)
RB	3	James Flanders (So.)	41	Tavarreon Dickerson (So.)

DEFENSE (9)

DE	**54**	**Derrick Alexander (Jr.)**	88	Cory Rahmings (So.)
DT	**8**	**Jesse Brubaker (So.)**	75	Lionell Phillips (Fr.)
DT	**99**	**Derrick Luetjen (Jr.)**	70	Jerry Uwaezuoke (So.)
DE	46	Chris Hummingbird (Sr.)	**97**	**Brentom Todd (Sr.)**
OLB	28	Craig Suits (Fr.)	**32**	**Mitchell Osborne (Sr.)**
MLB	40	Trent Martin (Jr.)	43	Donnell Hawkins (Sr.)
WLB	59	C.J. Gooden (Fr.)	48	Conner Sherwood (So.)
CB	**9**	**Dwight Dobbins (Sr.)**	**23**	**Will Barrow (So.)**
CB	**4**	**Darnell Walker (So.)**	6	Darrell Williams (Jr.)
FS	20	Demarco Nelson (Sr.)	49	Bradley White (Jr.)
SS	**1**	**Michael Mudoh (Jr.)**	21	Joe Bean (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	29	Carl Salazar (Sr.)	KR	4	Darnell Walker (So.)
P	2	Dalton Parks (So.)	PR	80	Conner Floyd (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Dane Evans, 195-84-898-10, 4 TDs
Rushing: Keevan Lucas, 12 att., 73 yds., 0 TDs
Receiving: Keevan Lucas, 32 rec., 442 yds., 1 TDs
Tackles: Michael Mudoh, 133
Sacks: Derrick Alexander, 6.5
Interceptions: Darnell Walker, 4

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

UCF KNIGHTS

NATIONAL FORECAST 55
AMERICAN PREDICTION 3

Head Coach: George O'Leary
Record at School: 72-56 (10 years)
Career Record: 124-89 (17 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Charlie Taaffe
Defensive Coordinator: Tyson Summers
Orlando, FL
Bright House Networks Stadium (45,323)

2014 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 8-4, 6-2 (AMERICAN)

August	
30	vs. Penn State #
September	
13	at Missouri
20	Bethune-Cookman
October	
2	at Houston
9	BYU
18	Tulane
25	Temple
November	
1	at Connecticut
14	Tulsa
22	SMU
28	at South Florida
December	
4	at East Carolina

#Dublin, Ireland

2013 RESULTS (12-1, 8-0)

Aug. 29	Akron	W	38-7
Sept. 6	at FIU	W	38-0
Sept. 14	at Penn State	W	34-31
Sept. 28	South Carolina	L	25-28
Oct. 5	at Memphis	W	24-17
Oct. 18	at Louisville	W	38-35
Oct. 26	Connecticut	W	62-17
Nov. 9	Houston	W	19-14
Nov. 16	at Temple	W	39-36
Nov. 21	Rutgers	W	41-17
Nov. 29	South Florida	W	23-20
Dec. 7	at SMU	W	17-13
Jan. 1	vs. Baylor #	W	52-42

#Fiesta Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Kyle Gibson, DB, Tampa, FL
2. Chris Williams, DB, St. Mary's, GA
3. Tyler Harris, QB, Blackshear, GA
4. Mike Rogers, DB, Smyrna, GA
5. Lance McDowdell, DT, Mount Vernon, NY
6. Jamiyus Pittman, DT, Moultrie, GA
7. Tre Neal, DB, Buford, GA
8. Errol Clarke, LB, Miami, FL*
9. Wyatt Miller, OL, Douglas, GA
10. C.J. Jones, RB, Port Orange, FL

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	AAC	National
Scoring	34.6 ppg	2	30
Rushing	159.9 ypg	2	74
Passing	281.6 ypg	4	25
Total	441.5 ypg	3	40
Defense	**Per Game**	**AAC**	**National**
Scoring	21.3 ppg	3	17
Rushing	122.5 ypg	5	16
Passing	239.5 ypg	4	76
Total	362.0 ypg	4	29
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**AAC**	**National**
+5	+0.4	3	32

OFFENSE UCF brings back plenty of weapons on offense from a 12–1 Fiesta Bowl champion squad that averaged nearly 34.6 points per game. One major problem: The Knights will be without the director of that offense. Quarterback Blake Bortles opted to declare for the NFL Draft, leaving a major hole under center and only inexperienced options to replace him. Sophomore Justin Holman, Bortles' primary backup last season, is the most likely candidate to step in to the starting role. His top challenger will be Boise State transfer Nick Patti, who was granted a waiver to play for the Knights immediately. Holman came out of the spring as the narrow leader over redshirt freshman Pete DiNovo and true freshman Tyler Harris, but Patti has one year of college experience and will push for the job.

With the question mark at quarterback, the biggest issue will be finding a way to get the ball into the hands of the Knights' playmakers. UCF brings back five receivers, including team leaders Rannell Hall (57 receptions, 886 yards), J.J. Worton (47-721), Breshad Perriman (39-811) and Josh Reese. UAB transfer Jackie Williams adds another solid option out of the slot. Sophomore running back Will Stanback has the size, speed and natural instincts to be an NFL prospect, and he'll be counted on to replace Storm Johnson as the Knights' feature back after rushing for 443 yards and six touchdowns as a freshman.

UCF also must replace three starters on the offensive line and will rely on some untested options at tackle.

STAT CORNER

+8.5

UCF's field position margin in conference play. Nobody flipped the field on league opponents better than the Knights.

DEFENSE The Knights' inexperienced defense used smoke and mirrors to finish 17th in the country in scoring defense last season, allowing just 21.3 points per game. It will be a much stronger unit this season.

UCF returns eight starters and will add two major junior college recruits to the mix in defensive tackle Lance McDowdell and linebacker Errol Clarke. With Freshman All-American Jacoby Glenn back as the top cover corner and senior leader Terrance Plummer still patrolling the middle of the defense at Mike linebacker, UCF brings back its two top defenders.

The Knights are experienced on the back end with senior safeties Clayton Geathers and Brandon Alexander. Sophomore Shaquill Griffin is slotted as the nickel back but will be pushed by an influx of top-end defensive back recruits, including four-star Kyle Gibson and former Alabama commit Chris Williams.

UCF will be bigger, more experienced and more athletic than last season, when it smothered opponents and limited big plays. The Knights allowed 122.5 rushing yards per game, 16th-best in the nation. The biggest concern will be the pass rush; UCF had just 29 sacks last season. The Knights need ends Thomas Niles, Luke Adams and Deion Green to be more effective getting to the quarterback.

SPECIALISTS UCF returns the most consistent kicker it has had in recent seasons in senior Shawn Moffitt, who connected on 21-of-23 field goals last season and all 49 extra-point attempts. Punter Caleb Houston also is back after averaging 42.2 yards on 41 punts. The Knights could be more dynamic in the return game. Williams was a threat at UAB, averaging 9.6 yards on 29 punt returns with a touchdown. Worton has been an all-conference returner, and incoming freshman Mike Rogers could also factor.

FINAL ANALYSIS UCF will have a tough task replicating its 2013 success without Bortles, but they have the talent in place to put together another strong season. The Knights will rely on a stingy defense to keep them in every game and a pro-style offense that takes few risks but has playmakers at running back and wide receiver. If UCF finds an answer at quarterback, it should once again be a strong contender in the American.

J.J. WORTON

THE QUOTE

"Can they win close games without Blake Bortles? He put them on his back when they weren't playing well."

— *An opposing American assistant coach*

OFFENSE (6)

WR	**6**	**Rannell Hall (Sr.)**	20	Taylor Oldham (So.)
WR	**11**	**Breshad Perriman (Jr.)**	19	Josh Reese (Sr.)
WR	**9**	**J.J. Worton (Sr.)**	3	Jackie Williams (Sr.)
LT	74	Michael Campbell (So.)	72	Torrian Wilson (Sr.)
LG	**72**	**Torrian Wilson (Sr.)**	75	Tate Hernly (Fr.)
C	**55**	**Joey Grant (Jr.)**	61	Tarik Cook (Jr.)
RG	61	Tarik Cook (Jr.)	66	Aaron Evans (Fr.)
RT	71	Chester Brown (So.)	74	Michael Campbell (So.)
TE	**84**	**Justin Tukes (Sr.)**	85	Kevin Miller (Jr.)
QB	13	Justin Holman (So.)		Nick Patti (So.)
RB	28	William Stanback (So.)	7	Dontravious Wilson (So.)

DEFENSE (8)

DE	**69**	**Thomas Niles (Jr.)**	43	Deondre Barnett (So.)
DT		Lance McDowdell (Jr.)	**94**	**Demetris Anderson (Jr.)**
DT	99	Jaryl Mamea (Sr.)		Jamiyus Pittman (Fr.)
DE	92	Luke Adams (So.)	47	Deion Green (Jr.)
LB		Errol Clarke (So.)	23	Willie Mitchell (Sr.)
LB	**41**	**Terrance Plummer (Sr.)**	52	Maurice Russell (So.)
LB	**57**	**Troy Gray (Sr.)**	40	Chequan Burkett (Fr.)
CB	**12**	**Jacoby Glenn (So.)**	10	Shaquill Griffin (So.)
CB	**38**	**Jordan Ozerities (Sr.)**		Kyle Gibson (Fr.)
FS	**37**	**Brandon Alexander (Sr.)**		Mike Rogers (Fr.)
SS	**26**	**Clayton Geathers (Sr.)**	22	Jared Henry (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	83	Shawn Moffitt (Sr.)	**KR**	6	Rannell Hall (Sr.)
P	36	Caleb Houston (So.)	**PR**	3	Jackie Williams (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Justin Holman, 14-9-75-1, 1 TD
Rushing: William Stanback, 105 att., 443 yds., 6 TDs
Receiving: Rannell Hall, 57 rec., 886 yds., 5 TDs
Tackles: Terrance Plummer, 110
Sacks: Thomas Niles, 4.0
Interceptions: Brandon Alexander, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

UCF Athletics SID

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BIG 12 PREVIEW

TREVOR KNIGHT, OKLAHOMA

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

1 OKLAHOMA **SOONERS** 11-1, 8-1 BIG 12

2 BAYLOR **BEARS** 10-2, 7-2 BIG 12

3 TEXAS **LONGHORNS** 9-3, 7-2 BIG 12

4 KANSAS STATE **WILDCATS** 8-4, 6-3 BIG 12

5 OKLAHOMA STATE **COWBOYS** 7-5, 5-4 BIG 12

6 TCU **HORNED FROGS** 7-5, 4-5 BIG 12

7 TEXAS TECH **RED RAIDERS** 7-5, 4-5 BIG 12

8 IOWA STATE **CYCLONES** 4-8, 2-7 BIG 12

9 WEST VIRGINIA **MOUNTAINEERS** 3-9, 2-7 BIG 12

10 KANSAS **JAYHAWKS** 2-10, 0-9 BIG 12

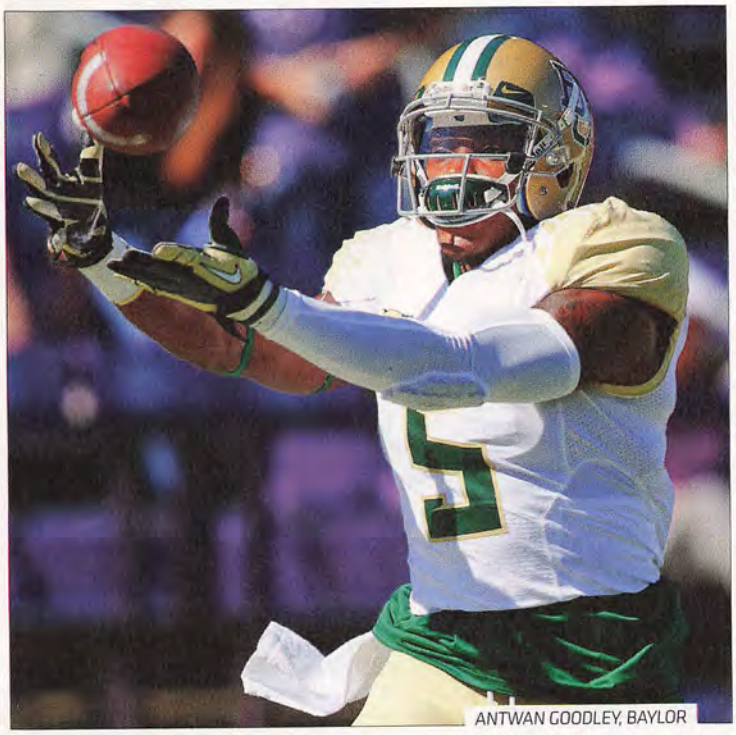
2014 UNIT RANKINGS

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
BAYLOR	1	2	1	3	4	3	8
IOWA STATE	8	8	7	7	9	10	10
KANSAS	10	9	10	10	10	6	7
KANSAS STATE	2	10	2	2	5	8	4
OKLAHOMA	3	4	6	1	1	1	3
OKLAHOMA STATE	5	5	5	6	6	9	6
TCU	7	6	9	9	3	5	1
TEXAS	6	1	3	4	2	2	2
TEXAS TECH	4	7	4	5	8	7	9
WEST VIRGINIA	9	3	8	8	7	4	5

Knight: Cal Sport Media via AP Images; Goodley: Tim Umphrey

2013 BIG 12 STANDINGS

	BIG 12	OVERALL		BIG 12	OVERALL
BAYLOR	8-1	11-2	TEXAS TECH	4-5	8-5
OKLAHOMA	7-2	11-2	TCU	2-7	4-8
OKLAHOMA STATE	7-2	10-3	WEST VIRGINIA	2-7	4-8
TEXAS	7-2	8-5	IOWA STATE	2-7	3-9
KANSAS STATE	5-4	8-5	KANSAS	1-8	3-9



ANTWAN GOODLEY, BAYLOR

2014 BIG 12 BOWL PROJECTIONS

College Football Playoff Oklahoma vs. Florida State
Cotton Bowl Baylor vs. UCLA
Alamo Bowl Texas vs. Stanford
Russell Athletic Bowl Kansas State vs. Notre Dame
Liberty Bowl Oklahoma State vs. Tennessee
Texas Bowl TCU vs. Texas A&M
Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl Texas Tech vs. Washington State

2013 BIG 12 BOWL RESULTS

Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl Kansas State 31, Michigan 14
Holiday Bowl Texas Tech 37, Arizona State 23
Alamo Bowl Oregon 30, Texas 7
Cotton Bowl Missouri 41, Oklahoma State 31
Fiesta Bowl UCF 52, Baylor 42
Sugar Bowl Oklahoma 45, Alabama 31

RECRUITING BY SCHOOL

1. Oklahoma 2. Texas 3. Baylor 4. Oklahoma State 5. West Virginia 6. Texas Tech 7. TCU 8. Kansas State 9. Kansas 10. Iowa State

PRESEASON ALL-BIG 12 TEAM

FIRST-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	BRYCE PETTY	6-3	230	Sr.	Baylor
RB	MALCOLM BROWN	6-0	228	Sr.	Texas
RB	SHOCK LINWOOD	5-9	200	So.	Baylor
WR	ANTWAN GOODLEY	5-11	225	Sr.	Baylor
WR	TYLER LOCKETT	5-11	175	Sr.	Kansas State
TE	E.J. BIBBS	6-3	261	Sr.	Iowa State
C	B.J. FINNEY	6-4	303	Sr.	Kansas State
G	QUINTON SPAIN	6-5	342	Sr.	West Virginia
T	LE'RAVEN CLARK	6-5	320	Jr.	Texas Tech
T	SPENCER DRANGO	6-6	305	Jr.	Baylor
T	CODY WHITEHAIR	6-4	309	Jr.	Kansas State

FIRST-TEAM DEFENSE

DE	RYAN MUELLER	6-2	245	Sr.	Kansas State
DE	CEDRIC REED	6-6	271	Sr.	Texas
DT	MALCOM BROWN	6-4	320	Jr.	Texas
DT	CHUCKY HUNTER	6-1	300	Sr.	TCU
LB	BRYCE HAGER	6-2	235	Sr.	Baylor
LB	BEN HEENEY	6-0	230	Sr.	Kansas
LB	ERIC STRIKER	6-0	220	Jr.	Oklahoma
CB	QUANDRE DIGGS	5-10	204	Sr.	Texas
CB	ZACK SANCHEZ	5-11	175	So.	Oklahoma
S	KARL JOSEPH	5-10	194	Jr.	West Virginia
S	SAM CARTER	6-1	215	Sr.	TCU

FIRST-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	MICHAEL HUNNICUTT	6-1	174	Sr.	Oklahoma
P	SPENCER ROTH	6-5	220	Sr.	Baylor
KR	TYLER LOCKETT	5-11	175	Sr.	Kansas State
PR	DAJE JOHNSON	5-10	180	Jr.	Texas

SECOND-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	JAKE WATERS	6-1	210	Sr.	Kansas State
RB	DESMOND ROLAND	6-2	210	Sr.	Oklahoma State
RB	AARON WIMBERLY	5-9	174	Sr.	Iowa State
WR	QUENTON BUNDRAGE	6-2	191	Jr.	Iowa State
WR	STERLING SHEPARD	5-10	194	Jr.	Oklahoma
WR	JAXON SHIPLEY	6-1	193	Sr.	Texas
C	TOM FARNIOK	6-4	300	Sr.	Iowa State
G	DESMINE HILLIARD	6-4	330	Jr.	Baylor
G	DANIEL KOENIG	6-6	300	Sr.	Oklahoma State
T	TROY BAKER	6-6	310	Sr.	Baylor
T	DARYL WILLIAMS	6-6	328	Sr.	Oklahoma

SECOND-TEAM DEFENSE

DE	DEVONTE FIELDS	6-4	240	So.	TCU
DE	CHARLES TAPPER	6-4	269	Jr.	Oklahoma
DT	ANDREW BILLINGS	6-2	310	So.	Baylor
DT	JAMES CASTLEMAN	6-2	300	Sr.	Oklahoma State
LB	DOMINIQUE ALEXANDER	6-0	217	So.	Oklahoma
LB	NICK KWIATKOSKI	6-2	230	Jr.	West Virginia
LB	JONATHAN TRUMAN	5-11	219	Sr.	Kansas State
CB	KEVIN PETERSON	5-11	185	Jr.	Oklahoma State
CB	KEVIN WHITE	5-10	174	Sr.	TCU
S	DANTE BARNETT	6-1	186	Jr.	Kansas State
S	CHRIS HACKETT	6-2	195	Jr.	TCU

SECOND-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	JADEN OBERKROM	6-3	187	Jr.	TCU
P	NICK O'TOOLE	6-3	215	Jr.	West Virginia
KR	B.J. CATALON	5-9	190	Jr.	TCU
PR	CAMERON ECHOLS-LUPER	6-0	190	Jr.	TCU

BAYLOR BEARS

NATIONAL FORECAST **10**
BIG 12 PREDICTION **2**

Head Coach: Art Briles
Record at School: 44-32 (6 years)
Career Record: 78-60 (10 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Philip Montgomery
Defensive Coordinator: Phil Bennett
Waco, TX
McLane Stadium (45,000)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 10-2, 7-2 (BIG 12)

August	
31	SMU
September	
6	Northwestern State
13	at Buffalo
27	at Iowa State
October	
4	at Texas
11	TCU
18	at West Virginia
November	
1	Kansas
8	at Oklahoma
22	Oklahoma State
29	vs. Texas Tech #
December	
6	Kansas State

#Arlington, TX

2013 RESULTS (11-2, 8-1)

Aug. 31	Wofford	W	69-3
Sept. 7	Buffalo	W	70-13
Sept. 21	ULM	W	70-7
Oct. 5	West Virginia	W	73-42
Oct. 12	at Kansas State	W	35-25
Oct. 19	Iowa State	W	71-7
Oct. 26	at Kansas	W	59-14
Nov. 7	Oklahoma	W	41-12
Nov. 16	vs. Texas Tech %	W	63-34
Nov. 23	at Oklahoma State	L	17-49
Nov. 30	at TCU	W	41-38
Dec. 7	Texas	W	30-10
Jan. 1	vs. UCF #	L	42-52

%Arlington #Fiesta Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. KD Cannon, WR, Mount Pleasant, TX
2. Davion Hall, WR, Texarkana, TX
3. Terence Williams, RB, Ennis, TX
4. Ishmael Zamora, WR, Houston, TX
5. Chris Platt, WR, Willis, TX
6. Jarell Broxton, OL, Gaithersburg, MD*
7. Josh Pelzel, OL, Rockdale, TX
8. Jourdan Blake, DB, Princeton, TX
9. Blake Blackmar, OL, Houston, TX
10. Chance Waz, DB, Pflugerville, TX

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big 12	National
Scoring	52.4 ppg	1	1
Rushing	259.7 ypg	1	13
Passing	359.1 ypg	2	5
Total	618.8 ypg	1	1
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
Scoring	23.5 ppg	4	36
Rushing	145.4 ypg	5	38
Passing	214.9 ypg	2	34
Total	360.3 ypg	4	28
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
+13	+1.0	2	8

OFFENSE Not that any coach is ever relaxed, but there is nothing more soothing than having a returning starter at quarterback. After patiently waiting for his turn, Bryce Petty made the most of it, passing for 4,200 yards and 32 touchdowns and leading Baylor to its first Big 12 championship, first BCS bowl appearance and the most wins in program history (11–2).

Petty goes into the 2014 season as a dark horse Heisman Trophy candidate. But his chances could hinge on the development and overhaul of the offensive line. It looked more like a M.A.S.H. unit in the spring, with left tackle Spencer Drango having offseason back surgery, right tackle Troy Baker a year removed from ACL surgery and three others out with injuries. And that doesn't even take into account having to replace two-time All-American Cyril Richardson and two other starters on the line.

Even without Tevin Reese, who left as the school's No. 3 all-time leading receiver, Petty will have plenty of weapons at his disposal. At the top of that list is unanimous All-Big 12 choice Antwan Goodley, who hauled in 71 passes for 1,339 yards and 13 touchdowns in his first year as a starter.

"Now, he's the guy. He's the featured guy," coach Art Briles says. "And we've got guys around him that certainly can take a lot of that heat off him." That includes Levi Norwood, Corey Coleman, Clay Fuller and Jay Lee, along with freshmen Davion Hall and KD Cannon.

Two-time All-Big 12 running back Lache Seastrunk left a year early for the NFL Draft, but the Bears are still loaded at running back with Shock Linwood, Devin Chafin and freshmen Johnny Jefferson and Terence Williams.

STAT CORNER

2

Games in which Baylor allowed more than 5.6 yards per play. In those games, the Bears allowed an average of 7.8 and lost them both.

DEFENSE Defensive coordinator Phil Bennett has to do a total makeover of an improved unit that ranked in the top 25 most of last season, allowing 360.3 yards and 23.5 points per game.

"These guys have sat there and watched all these four- and three-year starters that we've had on the defensive side of the ball win us a bunch of football games, win us two bowl games, win us a conference championship and get to a BCS bowl game," Briles says. "It's their turn to let their witness turn into production."

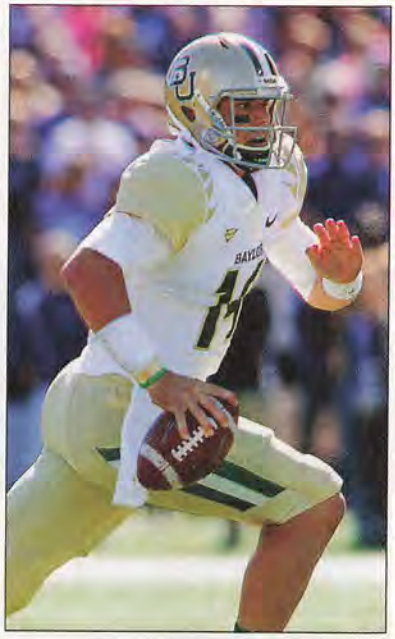
Up front, the Bears have arguably their deepest and most talented line in years. Ends Shawn Oakman and Jamal Palmer combined for 23.5 tackles for a loss and are joined by Boise State transfer Sam Ukwuachu, sophomore Javonte Magee and the entire five-man rotation at tackle.

"I think our front four can be as good as anybody in America," Briles says.

Linebacker is an issue, especially with middle man Bryce Hager out with a groin injury in the spring. But former prep running back Aiavion Edwards is an emerging talent. The secondary is also a work in progress with returning safety Terrell Burt missing all of spring drills. But Bennett loves cornerbacks Xavien Howard and Terrence Singleton, while sophomore Orion Stewart is replacing All-American Ahmad Dixon at the other safety spot.

SPECIALISTS The Bears have to break in new starters at kicker (Chris Callahan), snapper (Jimmy Landes) and holder (Andrew Frerking). But senior punter Spencer Roth is a returning All-Big 12 pick and All-America candidate who ranked sixth nationally with a 45.8-yard average.

FINAL ANALYSIS Defending an outright conference championship for the first time in 33 years, the Bears probably have too many question marks to give Oklahoma a serious fight for the top spot. But Baylor will be in the hunt and should have no problems going bowling for a fifth straight year.



BRYCE PETTY

Tim Umphrey/Athlon Sports

THE QUOTE

"The guy I really like is Antwan Goodley. He reminds me of Michael Crabtree as a receiver. He's physical and fast and strong."

— An opposing Big 12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (4)

WR	**5**	**Antwan Goodley (Sr.)**	4	Jay Lee (Jr.)
IR	**1**	**Corey Coleman (So.)**	23	Clay Fuller (Sr.)
IR	42	Levi Norwood (Sr.)	84	Lynx Hawthorne (So.)
LT	**58**	**Spencer Drango (Jr.)**	69	Pat Colbert (Jr.)
LG	60	LaQuan McGowan (So.)	73	Blake Muir (Jr.)
C	55	Kyle Fuller (So.)	62	Tyler Edwards (Sr.)
RG	67	Desmine Hilliard (Jr.)	61	Jarell Broxton (Jr.)
RT	75	Troy Baker (Sr.)	62	Tyler Edwards (Sr.)
TE	41	Tre'Von Armstead (So.)	15	Gus Penning (Jr.)
QB	**14**	**Bryce Petty (Sr.)**	17	Seth Russell (So.)
RB	32	Shock Linwood (So.)	28	Devin Chafin (So.)

DEFENSE (4)

DE	92	Jamal Palmer (Jr.)	86	Sam Ukwuachu (Jr.)
DT	75	Andrew Billings (So.)	93	Suleiman Masumbuko (Jr.)
DT	**95**	**Beau Blackshear (Jr.)**	**96**	**Byron Bonds (So.)**
DE	2	Shawn Oakman (Jr.)	90	Javonte Magee (So.)
WLB	20	Aiavion Edwards (So.)	51	Taylor Young (Fr.)
MLB	**44**	**Bryce Hager (Sr.)**	5	Grant Campbell (Jr.)
BEAR	38	Collin Brence (Sr.)	23	Kiante' Griffin (So.)
CB	18	Xavien Howard (So.)	1	Chris Sanders (Jr.)
CB	24	Terrence Singleton (So.)	19	Ryan Reid (So.)
S	28	Orion Stewart (So.)	12	Alfred Pullom (Fr.)
S	**13**	**Terrell Burt (Jr.)**	26	Taion Sells (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	40	Chris Callahan (Fr.)	**KR**	3	Robbie Rhodes (So.)
P	36	Spencer Roth (Sr.)	**PR**	42	Levi Norwood (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Bryce Petty, 403-250-4,200-3, 32 TDs
Rushing: Shock Linwood, 128 att., 881 yds., 8 TDs
Receiving: Antwan Goodley, 71 rec., 1,339 yds., 13 TDs
Tackles: Bryce Hager, 71
Sacks: Jamal Palmer, 5.0
Interceptions: Terrell Burt, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

IOWA STATE CYCLONES

NATIONAL FORECAST **66**
BIG 12 PREDICTION **8**

Head Coach: Paul Rhoads
Record at School: 27-36 (5 years)
Career Record: 27-36 (5 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Mark Mangino
Defensive Coordinator: Wally Burnham
Ames, IA
Jack Trice Stadium (56,800)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 4-8, 2-7 (BIG 12)

August	
30	North Dakota State
September	
6	Kansas State
13	at Iowa
27	Baylor
October	
4	at Oklahoma State
11	Toledo
18	at Texas
November	
1	Oklahoma
8	at Kansas
22	Texas Tech
29	West Virginia
December	
6	at TCU

2013 RESULTS (3-9, 2-7)

Aug. 31	Northern Iowa	L	20–28
Sept. 14	Iowa	L	21–27
Sept. 26	at Tulsa	W	38–21
Oct. 3	Texas	L	30–31
Oct. 12	at Texas Tech	L	35–42
Oct. 19	at Baylor	L	7–71
Oct. 26	Oklahoma State	L	27–58
Nov. 2	at Kansas State	L	7–41
Nov. 9	TCU	L	17–21
Nov. 16	at Oklahoma	L	10–48
Nov. 23	Kansas	W	34–0
Nov. 30	at West Virginia (ot)	W	52–44

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Allen Lazard, WR, Urbandale, IA
2. Michael Warren, RB, Lawton, OK
3. Mike Johnson, DB, Clearwater, FL
4. Terry Ayeni, DL, Toronto, ON*
5. Devron Moore, DB, Miami, OK*
6. Jauan Wesley, WR, Markham, IL
7. Cole Anderson, OL, League City, TX
8. Oujuan Floyd, DB, Santa Monica CA*
9. Martinez Syria, RB, Humble, TX
10. Kory Kodanko, OL, Green Bay, WI

* junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big 12	National
Scoring	24.8 ppg	9	89
Rushing	143.8 ypg	8	89
Passing	219.2 ypg	7	76
Total	363.0 ypg	8	96
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
Scoring	36.0 ppg	10	108
Rushing	224.0 ypg	10	112
Passing	239.1 ypg	7	75
Total	463.1 ypg	10	105
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
-1	-0.1	7	70

OFFENSE The good news here is that Iowa State has 10 starters returning on offense. The bad news is that last year's offense ranked 96th in the nation with only 363.0 yards per game. Still, new offensive coordinator Mark Mangino has plenty of quality pieces to work with, including two experienced quarterbacks in Grant Rohach and Sam Richardson. Rohach ended last season by throwing for 300-plus yards in wins over Kansas and West Virginia and is the favorite to win the starting job.

Iowa State should be in good shape at running back with Aaron Wimberly and DeVondrick Nealy as the featured backs. Wimberly is the more proven of the two, but durability is an issue for his 5'9", 174-pound frame. Nealy has simply been the victim of a crowded backfield over the course of the last two seasons and could be due for a breakout year.

Wide receiver is a position of strength for Paul Rhoads' Cyclones. Junior Quenton Bundrage, an All-Big 12 candidate, caught nine touchdown passes last year. The addition of true freshman Allen Lazard and South Florida transfer D'Vario Montgomery provides two new talented targets. Tight end E.J. Bibbs was second on the team in receptions a season ago. With Mangino calling the shots, expect Bibbs, a second-team All-Big 12 performer last year, to see an even larger role this season.

A plethora of injuries last season should help Iowa State's offensive line develop in 2014. The Cyclones started nine different combinations in 12 games last season. Senior Tom Farniok is one of the top centers in the Big 12.

STAT CORNER

-1.2

Iowa State's per-play yardage margin, 112th in the country. The Cyclones' defense couldn't make up for the offense last season.

DEFENSE Veteran defensive coordinator Wally Burnham has his work cut out for him with this group. Only five starters return from a unit that ranked 105th nationally in total defense in 2013.

Defensive end Cory Morrissey will be forced to carry a large load of responsibility up front after fellow seniors Rodney Coe and David Irving were dismissed from the program in the spring.

The Cyclones have numbers at linebacker but not much experience, as the majority of players competing for time are underclassmen. Luke Knott will return after undergoing groin/hip surgery in the offseason. Despite missing half of the season, Knott still recorded 45 tackles during his rookie campaign. Jared Brackens is an undersized but athletic strong-side linebacker who fits nicely against Big 12 offenses.

Rhoads is high on sophomore Nigel Tribune, who will lead the secondary at cornerback. Two veterans, Sam Richardson and Kenneth Lynn, will combine to man the opposite side. Newcomers will occupy both safety spots.

SPECIALISTS After relying on Kirby Van Der Kamp for the last four seasons, Iowa State will hand the punting duties over to a true freshman in Colin Downing. Ranked as the top kicker/punter in the state of Wisconsin, Downing chose the Cyclones over Penn State. After going 13-of-18 — including 10-of-11 inside 40 yards — on field-goal attempts last season, Cole Netten will kick once again for the Cyclones.

FINAL ANALYSIS Iowa State must improve significantly on both sides of the ball if it hopes to bounce back from last season's disappointing three-win season. With Mangino on the staff, there is legitimate hope for better production on offense. There are some nice pieces at the skill positions for the former Kansas head coach to work with. Defensively, however, there are major issues. The staff will be relying on several junior college transfers — always a dangerous proposition. If the Cyclones want to reach a bowl game in 2014, they will have to do it by simply outscoring the opposition.

QUENTON BUNDRAGE

Jay Biggerstaff

THE QUOTE

"They are a tough out defensively without question. But the question with them is, can they manufacture enough offense to keep it interesting?"

— An opposing Big 12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (10)

WR	4	P.J. Harris (So.)		Allen Lazard (Fr.)
WR	1	Jarvis West (Sr.)	17	Damein Lawry (So.)
WR	**9**	**Quenton Bundrage (Jr.)**	8	D'Vario Montgomery (So.)
LT	**72**	**Brock Dagel (Jr.)**	67	Jake Campos (Fr.)
LG	**77**	**Oni Omoile (Jr.)**	**76**	**Jamison Lalk (Jr.)**
C	**74**	**Tom Farniok (Sr.)**	56	Ben Loth (Sr.)
RG	**70**	**Daniel Burton (So.)**		Wendell Taiese (Jr.)
RT	**65**	**Jacob Gannon (Sr.)**	66	Jacob Dunning (So.)
TE	**11**	**E.J. Bibbs (Sr.)**	95	Ben Boesen (Jr.)
QB	3	Grant Rohach (So.)	**12**	**Sam Richardson (Jr.)**
RB	**2**	**Aaron Wimberly (Sr.)**	20	DeVondrick Nealy (Jr.)

DEFENSE (5)

DE	**58**	**Cory Morrissey (Sr.)**	11	Gabe Luna (Jr.)
DT	93	Brandon Jensen (Sr.)		Terry Ayeni (Jr.)
DT	94	Devlyn Cousin (So.)	95	Robby Garcia (Fr.)
DE	90	Mitchell Meyers (So.)	11	Dale Pierson (Jr.)
WLB	21	Luke Knott (So.)	**55**	**Jevohn Miller (Sr.)**
MLB	2	Jordan Harris (Jr.)	44	Alton Meeks (Fr.)
SLB	**14**	**Jared Brackens (Sr.)**	3	Drake Ferch (Sr.)
CB	**34**	**Nigel Tribune (So.)**	24	Matthew Thomas (Sr.)
CB	**4**	**Sam Richardson (Jr.)**	8	Kenneth Lynn (Jr.)
FS	5	Kamari Cotton-Moya (Fr.)	2	Kamari Syrie (Fr.)
SS	22	T.J. Mutcherson (So.)	23	Darian Cotton (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	1	Cole Netten (So.)	KR 20	DeVondrick Nealy (Jr.)
P		Colin Downing (Fr.)	PR 1	Jarvis West (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Sam B. Richardson, 220-121-1,397-7, 11 TDs
Rushing: Aaron Wimberly, 141 att., 567 yds., 2 TDs
Receiving: Quenton Bundrage, 48 rec., 676 yds., 9 TDs
Tackles: Jared Brackens, 61
Sacks: 3 players tied with 2
Interceptions: Nigel Tribune, 1

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

KANSAS JAYHAWKS

NATIONAL FORECAST **78**
BIG 12 PREDICTION **10**

Head Coach: Charlie Weis
Record at School: 4-20 (2 years)
Career Record: 39-47 (7 years)
Offensive Coordinator: John Reagan
Defensive Coordinator: Clint Bowen
Lawrence, KS
Memorial Stadium (50,071)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 2-10, 0-9 (BIG 12)

September	
6	SE Missouri State
13	at Duke
20	Central Michigan
27	Texas
October	
4	at West Virginia
11	Oklahoma State
18	at Texas Tech
November	
1	at Baylor
8	Iowa State
15	TCU
22	at Oklahoma
29	at Kansas State

2013 RESULTS (3-9, 1-8)

Sept. 7	South Dakota	W	31-14
Sept. 14	at Rice	L	14-23
Sept. 21	Louisiana Tech	W	13-10
Oct. 5	Texas Tech	L	16-54
Oct. 12	at TCU	L	17-27
Oct. 19	Oklahoma	L	19-34
Oct. 26	Baylor	L	14-59
Nov. 2	at Texas	L	13-35
Nov. 9	at Oklahoma State	L	6-42
Nov. 16	West Virginia	W	31-19
Nov. 23	at Iowa State	L	0-34
Nov. 30	Kansas State	L	10-31

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Traevohn Wrench, RB, Gardner, KS
2. Kyron Watson, LB, East St. Louis, IL
3. Anthony Olobia, DE, Renton, WA*
4. Corey Avery, RB/WR, Dallas, TX
5. D.J. Williams, DL, Lufkin, TX
6. Jacob Bragg, OL, Nacogdoches, TX
7. Derrick Neal, WR, Dallas, TX
8. Joe Dineen, S, Lawrence, KS
9. Ronnie Davis, CB, Oklahoma City, OK*
10. Lay'Trion Jones, DL, Garland, TX

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big 12	National
Scoring	15.3 ppg	10	118
Rushing	154.1 ypg	6	77
Passing	140.4 ypg	10	117
Total	294.5 ypg	10	117
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
Scoring	31.8 ppg	8	93
Rushing	190.6 ypg	7	89
Passing	242.0 ypg	8	78
Total	432.6 ypg	8	96
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
+1	+0.1	5	54

OFFENSE One of KU's biggest issues during Charlie Weis' tenure has been its quarterback play, and the coach will be going with his third different starting QB in three years after naming sophomore Montell Cozart the starter at the end of spring practice. Cozart is a dual threat, as he was named offensive MVP in the spring game after rushing for 70 yards and two touchdowns while also completing 6-of-10 passes. His question mark is accuracy; he connected on just 23-of-63 passes in 2013.

Though KU loses James Sims at running back, it should be just fine at the position. Senior Brandon Bourbon, a big back with surprising speed for his size, should get the first crack at carries, while junior Darrian Miller, blessed with good balance, will also get his share of touches. Senior Taylor Cox and junior college transfer De'Andre Mann will provide depth.

The biggest reason for optimism at receiver is senior Nick Harwell, a transfer from Miami (Ohio) who posted three straight 800-yard receiving seasons with the RedHawks. Also starting will be Rodriguez Coleman, who shined in the spring, and speedy senior Tony Pierson, who has been KU's best playmaker during the past two seasons. Senior Jimmay Mundine, who battled drops in 2013, returns as KU's best offensive threat at tight end.

The offensive line figures to be one of the team's biggest unknowns heading into 2014, as the Jayhawks lost a lot of experience from a group that already was an area of weakness. The strength of the unit most likely will be the guard spots, as seniors Ngalu Fusimalohi and Mike Smithburg combined for 20 starts in 2013.

STAT CORNER

3.1

Average points per trip inside the opponent's 40-yard line scored by Kansas in conference play in 2013. Nobody else in the league averaged under 3.6.

DEFENSE Senior Keon Stowers is the star of the defensive line at the nose tackle spot, while Ben Goodman made the transition from outside linebacker to defensive end after adding some weight in the offseason. The Jayhawks also will rely on the athletic-but-raw Andrew Bolton at the other end spot while hoping that fall newcomers provide additional depth.

Senior middle linebacker Ben Heeney is KU's best bet to earn All-Big 12 honors, as the high-motor player was a second-team all-league pick a year ago. Junior Jake Love is a solid-but-not-flashy player at the other inside linebacker spot. Michael Reynolds is KU's best pass-rusher at Buck outside linebacker.

The secondary figures to be KU's greatest strength. Two players stood out most in 2013 — senior Dexter McDonald, a tall corner who often had opponents throwing the other direction, and junior safety Isaiah Johnson, who was named Big 12 Defensive Newcomer of the Year after ranking second in the league with five interceptions. Cornerback Kevin Short, a former junior college transfer who redshirted in 2013, also emerged in the spring and appears to have locked up a starting spot.

SPECIALISTS The strength of the special teams is senior punter Trevor Pardula, who averaged 43.7 yards per kick a season ago while booting a school-record 84 punts. KU's biggest concern is at kicker, as student-tryout-hopeful-turned-starter Matthew Wyman remains the team's top option after making 5-of-10 field goals in 2013.

FINAL ANALYSIS During his first two years at KU, Weis was careful to not set specific win total goals for his rebuilding football team. That's changed this season, as he enters Year 3 with the most talent he's had and a solid base of upperclassmen.

"Before you can be a perennial winning program, the first thing you've got to do is get to .500," Weis says.

Though this probably isn't a "bowl or bust" season for the Jayhawks, Weis likely will need to improve his win total to avoid the hot seat in the third year of a five-year contract.

BEN HEENEY

THE QUOTE

"Schematically, they are tougher to gameplan for because they are very multiple. It's the NFL mold where you're changing things a good bit."

— An opposing Big 12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	8	Nick Harwell (Sr.)	11	Tre' Parmalee (Jr.)
WR	**3**	**Tony Pierson (Sr.)**	82	Andrew Turzilli (Sr.)
WR	1	Rodriguez Coleman (Jr.)	**19**	**Justin McCay (Sr.)**
LT	61	Pat Lewandowski (Sr.)	72	Zach Fondal (Sr.)
LG	**63**	**Ngalu Fusimalohi (Sr.)**	76	Bryan Peters (Jr.)
C	70	Keyon Haughton (Jr.)	77	Joe Gibson (Fr.)
RG	**65**	**Mike Smithburg (Sr.)**	67	Joey Bloomfield (Fr.)
RT	73	Damon Martin (Jr.)	74	Brian Beckmann (So.)
TE	**41**	**Jimmay Mundine (Sr.)**	84	Ben Johnson (Fr.)
QB	2	Montell Cozart (So.)	10	T.J. Millweard (So.)
RB	25	Brandon Bourbon (Sr.)	6	Darrian Miller (Jr.)

DEFENSE (9)

DE	95	Andrew Bolton (Jr.)	94	Tyler Holmes (So.)
NT	**98**	**Keon Stowers (Sr.)**	99	Tedarian Johnson (Sr.)
DE	**93**	**Ben Goodman (Jr.)**		Kapil Fletcher (Jr.)
BUCK	55	Michael Reynolds (Sr.)	**27**	**Victor Simmons (Sr.)**
MLB	**31**	**Ben Heeney (Sr.)**	53	Colton Goeas (Fr.)
WLB	**57**	**Jake Love (Jr.)**	32	Schyler Miles (Jr.)
CB	**12**	**Dexter McDonald (Sr.)**	26	Brandon Holloman (Jr.)
CB	7	Kevin Short (Jr.)	23	Ronnie Davis (Jr.)
NB	**24**	**JaCorey Shepherd (Sr.)**	22	Greg Allen (So.)
FS	**33**	**Cassius Sendish (Sr.)**	9	Fish Smithson (So.)
SS	**5**	**Isaiah Johnson (Jr.)**	30	Tevin Shaw (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	17	Matthew Wyman (So.)	KR	24	JaCorey Shepherd (Sr.)
P	16	Trevor Pardula (Sr.)	PR	5	Isaiah Johnson (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Jake Heaps, 261-128-1,414-10, 8 TDs
Rushing: Darrian Miller, 67 att., 322 yds., 0 TDs
Receiving: Tony Pierson, 24 rec., 333 yds., 1 TD
Tackles: Ben Heeney, 88
Sacks: Michael Reynolds, 6.5
Interceptions: Isaiah Johnson, 5

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Chris Covatta/Athlon Sports

KANSAS STATE WILDCATS

NATIONAL FORECAST **20**
BIG 12 PREDICTION **4**

Head Coach: Bill Snyder
Record at School: 178-90-1 (22 years)
Career Record: 178-90-1 (22 years)
Offensive Co-Coordinators: Dana Dimel, Del Miller
Defensive Coordinator: Tom Hayes
Manhattan, KS
Bill Snyder Family Stadium (50,000)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 8-4, 6-3 (BIG 12)

August	
30	Stephen F. Austin
September	
6	at Iowa State
18	Auburn
27	UTEP
October	
4	Texas Tech
18	at Oklahoma
25	Texas
November	
1	Oklahoma State
8	at TCU
20	at West Virginia
29	Kansas
December	
6	at Baylor

2013 RESULTS (8-5, 5-4)

Aug. 30	North Dakota State	L	21-24
Sept. 7	UL Lafayette	W	48-27
Sept. 14	Massachusetts	W	37-7
Sept. 21	at Texas	L	21-31
Oct. 5	at Oklahoma State	L	29-33
Oct. 12	Baylor	L	25-35
Oct. 26	West Virginia	W	35-12
Nov. 2	Iowa State	W	41-7
Nov. 9	at Texas Tech	W	49-26
Nov. 16	TCU	W	33-31
Nov. 23	Oklahoma	L	31-41
Nov. 30	at Kansas	W	31-10
Dec. 28	vs. Michigan #	W	31-14

#Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Terrell Clinkscales, DT, Maywood, IL,*
2. D'Vonta Derricott, LB, Garden City, KS*
3. Dalton Risner, OL, Wiggins, CO
4. Elijah Lee, LB, Blue Springs, MO
5. Luke Hayes, OL, Scott City, KS*
6. Dalvin Warmack, RB, Blue Springs, MO
7. Danzel McDaniel, DB, Dolton, IL*
8. Kaleb Prewett, DB, Blue Springs, MO
9. Sam Sizelove, LB, Argyle, TX
10. Winston Dimel, FB, Manhattan, KS

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big 12	National
Scoring	33.2 ppg	4	37
Rushing	178.0 ypg	4	54
Passing	224.7 ypg	6	73
Total	402.7 ypg	7	71
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
Scoring	22.9 ppg	3	31
Rushing	139.1 ypg	3	27
Passing	219.8 ypg	4	48
Total	358.8 ypg	3	26
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
0	0.0	6	61

OFFENSE Take a look back at coach Bill Snyder's best seasons. For the most part, they all occurred when he had the opportunity to work with a veteran quarterback he could trust. That will once again be the case this season, with Jake Waters returning for what could be a special senior year. He completed 159-of-260 passes while throwing for 2,469 yards and 18 touchdowns last season. He also developed a strong rapport with top receiver Tyler Lockett that should continue to blossom. Last season, Waters' development was slowed by a position battle with Daniel Sams. But he took control of the job and is now the unquestioned starter, while Sams has moved to receiver.

With a strong core of offensive linemen returning in senior center B.J. Finney and juniors Cody Whitehair and Boston Stiverson, blocking shouldn't be a problem. Give Waters time, and he will have ample options to choose from in the passing game. The Wildcats are loaded at wide receiver. Lockett, a senior, returns as one of the nation's top playmakers, but there is more to the position. Curry Sexton caught 39 passes for 446 yards last year, and sophomore Deante Burton seems poised to take on a starting role. Sams is new to the group, but he showed promise during spring practice. Kyle Klein and Andre Davis should both also see the field.

The biggest question mark on offense is at running back. John Hubert, a three-year starter and the No. 2 rusher in program history, has played his last game. That means an unproven runner will take his place. DeMarcus Robinson, a senior and former four-star recruit out of Wichita, figures to be the favorite, but sophomores Jarvis Leverett and Charles Jones aren't far behind. Freshman Dalvin Warmack could also get carries as the season goes along.

STAT CORNER

+1.1

Kansas State's per-play yardage margin, 19th in the country. By the end of 2013, the Wildcats were the Wildcats again.

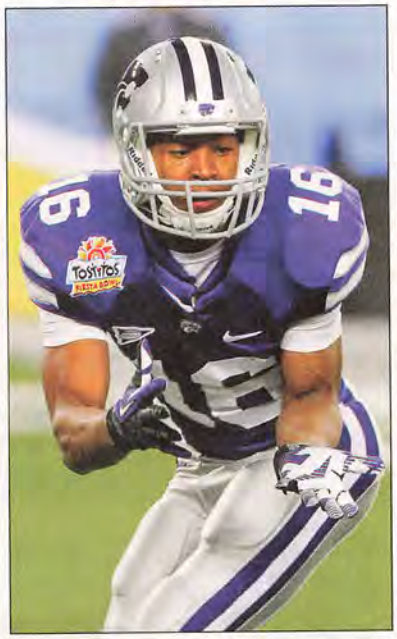
DEFENSE Ryan Mueller was an unknown last season. This year, he will be at the top of every opposing team's scouting report. After bursting onto the scene as a junior with 11.5 sacks, which tied the program record for a season, he is now expected to anchor K-State's defensive line with his pass-rushing skills. He will have to deliver. Though the Wildcats have lots of promising young talent on defense, Mueller is one of the unit's few proven playmakers.

Travis Britz is back for another year in the middle of K-State's defensive line, Dante Barnett will highlight the secondary at safety, and cornerback Randall Evans and linebacker Jonathan Truman have starting experience. But the rest of the defense will be filled with new faces. A pair of touted junior college transfers could slide seamlessly into the Wildcats' defensive plans. Terrell Clinkscales is talented enough to play immediately at defensive tackle, and D'Vonta Derricott should start at linebacker. Still, they lack experience on the FBS level.

A year ago, K-State's defense relied on veterans such as Blake Slaughter and Ty Zimmerman to lead the way. The Wildcats may be more talented this season, but they will need new leadership from players like Mueller.

SPECIALISTS Jack Cantele had a strong debut season as K-State's kicker, connecting on 11-of-13 field goals. He seems ready for more this year. Lockett will once again lead the way at kick returner. He has been one of the most explosive return men in the nation the past few seasons, scoring four touchdowns.

FINAL ANALYSIS K-State finished 2013 strong by winning six of seven. The Wildcats will need to take advantage of that momentum with an early trip to Iowa State and a home game with Auburn looming before October. If they do, it could be a special season in Manhattan.



TYLER LOCKETT

Rick Scuteri/AP Images

THE QUOTE

"They should be a player in league play. There's not really a glaring weakness with them. They just play sound football."

— An opposing Big 12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	**16**	**Tyler Lockett (Sr.)**	81	Kyle Klein (Jr.)
WR	6	Deante Burton (So.)	2	Andre Davis (Jr.)
WR	**14**	**Curry Sexton (Sr.)**	4	Daniel Sams (Jr.)
LT	**55**	**Cody Whitehair (Jr.)**	78	Bryce Fitzner (Fr.)
LG	70	Will Ash (So.)	61	Drew Liddle (Sr.)
C	**66**	**B.J. Finney (Sr.)**		Dalton Risner (Fr.)
RG	77	Boston Stiverson (Jr.)	72	Aderius Epps (So.)
RT	68	Luke Hayes (Jr.)	65	Matt Kleinsorge (Jr.)
TE	**85**	**Zach Trujillo (Sr.)**	80	Cody Small (Fr.)
QB	**15**	**Jake Waters (Sr.)**	17	Jesse Ertz (Fr.)
RB	20	DeMarcus Robinson (Sr.)	28	Jarvis Leverett (So.)

DEFENSE (5)

DE	**44**	**Ryan Mueller (Sr.)**	34	Tanner Wood (Fr.)
DT		Terrell Clinkscales (Jr.)	99	Valentino Coleman (Sr.)
DT	**95**	**Travis Britz (Jr.)**	79	Chris Brown (Sr.)
DE	45	Marquel Bryant (Jr.)	75	Jordan Willis (So.)
LB		D'Vonta Derricott (Jr.)	26	Nick Ramirez (Fr.)
LB	**21**	**Jonathan Truman (Sr.)**	32	Dakorey Johnson (Sr.)
LB	52	Charmeachealle Moore (Jr.)	35	Will Davis (So.)
CB	33	Morgan Burns (Jr.)	7	Danzel McDaniel (Jr.)
CB	**15**	**Randall Evans (Sr.)**	23	Cre Moore (Fr.)
FS	**22**	**Dante Barnett (Jr.)**	25	Joseph Bonugli (Sr.)
SS	20	Dylan Schellenberg (Sr.)	2	Travis Green (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	3	Jack Cantele (Jr.)	**KR**	16	Tyler Lockett (Sr.)
P	9	Mitch Lochbihler (Fr.)	**PR**	33	Morgan Burns (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Jake Waters, 260-159-2,469-9, 18 TDs
Rushing: Daniel Sams, 152 att., 807 yds., 11 TDs
Receiving: Tyler Lockett, 81 rec., 1,262 yds., 11 TDs
Tackles: Jonathan Truman, 89
Sacks: Ryan Mueller, 11.5
Interceptions: Dante Barnett, 4

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

OKLAHOMA SOONERS

NATIONAL FORECAST 4
BIG 12 PREDICTION 1

Head Coach: Bob Stoops
Record at School: 160-39 (15 years)
Career Record: 160-39 (15 years)
Co-Offensive Coordinators: Josh Heupel, Jay Norvell
Defensive Coordinator: Mike Stoops
Norman, OK
Oklahoma Memorial Stadium (82,112)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 11-1, 8-1 (BIG 12)

August	
30	Louisiana Tech
September	
6	at Tulsa
13	Tennessee
20	at West Virginia
October	
4	at TCU
11	vs. Texas #
18	Kansas State
November	
1	at Iowa State
8	Baylor
15	at Texas Tech
22	Kansas
December	
6	Oklahoma State

#Dallas, TX

2013 RESULTS (11-2, 7-2)

Aug. 31	UL Monroe	W	34-0
Sept. 7	West Virginia	W	16-7
Sept. 14	Tulsa	W	51-20
Sept. 28	at Notre Dame	W	35-21
Oct. 5	TCU	W	20-17
Oct. 12	vs. Texas %	L	20-36
Oct. 19	at Kansas	W	34-19
Oct. 26	Texas Tech	W	38-30
Nov. 7	at Baylor	L	12-41
Nov. 16	Iowa State	W	48-10
Nov. 23	at Kansas State	W	41-31
Dec. 7	at Oklahoma State	W	33-24
Jan. 2	vs. Alabama #	W	45-31

%Dallas #Sugar Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Joe Mixon, RB, Oakley, CA
2. Michiah Quick, WR, Fresno, CA
3. Steven Parker, DB, Tulsa, OK
4. Mark Andrews, WR, Scottsdale, AZ
5. Justice Hansen, QB, Edmond, OK
6. Dallis Todd, WR, La Mirada, CA
7. Samaje Perine, RB, Pflugerville, TX
8. Jeffery Mead, WR, Tulsa, OK
9. Natrell Curtis, OL, Phoenix, AZ
10. Kenyon Frison, OL, Salt Lake City, UT

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big 12	National
Scoring	32.8 ppg	5	40
Rushing	223.9 ypg	2	18
Passing	199.1 ypg	9	90
Total	423.0 ypg	4	52
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
Scoring	22.1 ppg	2	22
Rushing	137.6 ypg	2	25
Passing	212.5 ypg	1	30
Total	350.2 ypg	1	20
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
+8	+0.6	3	21

Chris Covatta

OFFENSE Oklahoma played three quarterbacks last year against Oklahoma State in the regular-season finale. Then Trevor Knight provided clarity for the position, producing a breakthrough performance in a stunning Sugar Bowl win over Alabama, whom he torched for 348 yards and four touchdowns, walking off with the Most Valuable Player trophy and walking into 2014 as the No. 1 quarterback.

Knight will still have to prove he can be consistent, an issue that plagued him as a redshirt freshman a year ago. But the belief inside the program is that the Sooners have something special in Knight, a dual-threat operator who's been creating a buzz since arriving on campus. Knight will be pushing those around him, too, as the Sooners move ahead without their top rushers, receivers and linemen from 2013.

At Oklahoma, there's a "next up" mentality. And it's in play again, amid a sense that there's a cast of playmakers ready for their shot. Sophomores Alex Ross and Keith Ford are former premium prospects working to earn the feature running back role, yet both will have to hold off incoming freshman and five-star recruit Joe Mixon — a tantalizing combination of speed and power.

Sterling Shepard gives the Sooners a proven and productive receiver who's ready to thrive as the primary target. Beyond Shepard, inexperience is a concern, although coaches are confident reliable receivers will emerge, including at tight end, which gets renewed emphasis in the passing game.

The offensive line loses All-America center Gabe Ikard, yet the unit is experienced and anchored by senior tackles Tyrus Thompson and Daryl Williams.

STAT CORNER

5

Games in which Oklahoma averaged at least 6.0 yards per play in 2013. The Sooners did it seven times in '12 and eight in '11.

DEFENSE The front seven projects to be among the best in the Big 12, if not the nation. On the line, there's talent and depth, headlined by first-team All-Big 12 end Charles Tapper, who produced 5.5 sacks a year ago as a sophomore. Linebacker may be the team's greatest strength, starting with Eric Striker, who led OU with 6.5 sacks and 10.5 tackles for a loss. He's an attacking and disrupting presence whose energy flows through the entire defense. "He's not only a great player, he has a great feel for the game, and that's what great players do," says defensive coordinator Mike Stoops.

Dominique Alexander, the Big 12 Defensive Freshman of the Year in 2013, also returns after finishing second on the team with 80 tackles. The biggest concern exiting spring was the status of leading tackler Frank Shannon, who was facing possible disciplinary action for an alleged sexual assault.

In the secondary, youngsters will be under fire to hold up the back end, and perhaps, the defense overall. Cornerback Zack Sanchez returns off a Freshman All-America season that saw him lead the team in passes defended. And there's optimism that OU's next wave of defensive backs have simply waited their turn.

SPECIALISTS Michael Hunnicutt made 24-of-27 field goal attempts in leading the Sooners in scoring last fall when he was a semifinalist for the Groza Award. Jed Barnett averaged 41.7 yards per punt, with more than a third of his boots downed inside the 20. There's a search for return men, but several candidates are on hand, with Mixon and Shepard offering intriguing possibilities.

FINAL ANALYSIS The pulse of a program changed dramatically with wins over in-state rival Oklahoma State and Alabama at the end of last season. Reasons for optimism are plenty, from Knight to a talented cast of playmakers and a stout defense to a schedule set up to accommodate ambitious goals.

These Sooners can win. And win big.

TREVOR KNIGHT

THE QUOTE

"It's hard to find a big weakness. No team is perfect, but they are pretty solid. That is why they will be most people's pick to win it."

— An opposing Big 12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	3	**Sterling Shepard (Jr.)**	7	Dannon Cavil (Fr.)
WR	5	Durron Neal (Jr.)	12	Derrick Woods (So.)
WR	1	K.J. Young (Fr.)	17	Jordan Smallwood (Fr.)
LT	71	**Tyrus Thompson (Sr.)**	72	Derek Farniok (Jr.)
LG	77	Dionte Savage (Sr.)	74	**Adam Shead (Sr.)**
C	56	Ty Darlington (Jr.)		Alex Dalton (Fr.)
RG	54	**Nila Kasitati (Jr.)**	53	Tony Feo (Sr.)
RT	79	**Daryl Williams (Sr.)**	70	Christian Daimler (Fr.)
TE	88	Taylor McNamara (So.)	10	Blake Bell (Sr.)
QB	9	Trevor Knight (So.)	14	Cody Thomas (Fr.)
RB	21	Keith Ford (So.)		Joe Mixon (Fr.)

DEFENSE (9)

DE	91	**Charles Tapper (Jr.)**	90	Matt Dimon (So.)
DT	80	Jordan Phillips (Jr.)	93	**Jordan Wade (So.)**
DE	85	Geneo Grissom (Sr.)	98	**Chuka Ndulue (Sr.)**
LB	19	**Eric Striker (Jr.)**	5	Devante Bond (Jr.)
LB	20	**Frank Shannon (Jr.)**	26	Jordan Evans (So.)
LB	1	**Dominique Alexander (So.)**	40	P.L. Lindley (Jr.)
CB	15	**Zack Sanchez (So.)**	22	Cortez Johnson (Jr.)
CB	27	Dakota Austin (So.)	6	Stanvon Taylor (So.)
NB	2	**Julian Wilson (Sr.)**		Jordan Thomas (Fr.)
SS	10	**Quentin Hayes (Sr.)**	13	Ahmad Thomas (So.)
FS	4	Hatari Byrd (So.)		Steven Parker (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	18	Michael Hunnicutt (Sr.)	KR		Joe Mixon (Fr.)
P	44	Jed Barnett (Sr.)	PR	3	Sterling Shepard (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Blake Bell, 233-140-1,648-5, 12 TDs
Rushing: Trevor Knight, 67 att., 445 yds., 2 TDs
Receiving: Sterling Shepard, 51 rec., 603 yds., 7 TDs
Tackles: Frank Shannon, 92
Sacks: Eric Striker, 6.5
Interceptions: Julian Wilson, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

OKLAHOMA STATE COWBOYS

NATIONAL FORECAST 37
BIG 12 PREDICTION 5

Head Coach: Mike Gundy
Record at School: 77-38 (9 years)
Career Record: 77-38 (9 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Mike Yurcich
Defensive Coordinator: Glenn Spencer
Stillwater, OK
Boone Pickens Stadium (60,218)

2014 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 7-5, 5-4 (BIG 12)

August	
30	vs. Florida State #
September	
6	Missouri State
13	UTSA
25	Texas Tech
October	
4	Iowa State
11	at Kansas
18	at TCU
25	West Virginia
November	
1	at Kansas State
15	Texas
22	at Baylor
December	
6	at Oklahoma

#Arlington, TX

2013 RESULTS (10-3, 7-2)

Aug. 31	vs. Mississippi State %	W	21–3
Sept. 7	at UTSA	W	56–35
Sept. 14	Lamar	W	59–3
Sept. 28	at West Virginia	L	21–30
Oct. 5	Kansas State	W	33–29
Oct. 19	TCU	W	24–10
Oct. 26	at Iowa State	W	58–27
Nov. 2	at Texas Tech	W	52–34
Nov. 9	Kansas	W	42–6
Nov. 16	at Texas	W	38–13
Nov. 23	Baylor	W	49–17
Dec. 7	Oklahoma	L	24–33
Jan. 3	vs. Missouri #	L	31–41

%Houston #Cotton Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Tyreek Hill, WR/RB, Pearson, GA*
2. Devon Thomas, RB, Broken Arrow, OK
3. Gyasi Akem, LB, Broken Arrow, OK
4. Mason Rudolph, QB, Rock Hill, SC
5. Keenen Brown, WR, Houston, TX
6. Chris Hardeman, CB, Houston, TX
7. Jordan Brailford, DE, Tulsa, OK
8. Trey Carter, DL, Dallas, TX
9. Josh Mabin, LB, Houston, TX
10. Jarrell Owens, DE, Palestine, TX

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big 12	National
Scoring	39.1 ppg	2	14
Rushing	171.6 ypg	5	63
Passing	277.2 ypg	3	29
Total	448.8 ypg	3	37
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
Scoring	21.6 ppg	1	19
Rushing	142.4 ypg	4	32
Passing	242.5 ypg	9	79
Total	384.9 ypg	5	52
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
+15	+1.2	1	4

OFFENSE Uncertainty at quarterback has become a recent trend at Oklahoma State. J.W. Walsh, who has spent time on and off as the starter, used a strong spring to reestablish himself in the eyes of coaches. Always touted as a leader and a "winner," he showed improved judgment and accuracy throwing the ball, offering hope that he's growing into the role. Walsh's mobility is also a plus behind an offensive line that is rebuilding and counting on the healthy return of its projected starting tackles, Devin Davis and Brandon Garrett.

So Walsh, who entered spring in competition with former Arizona transfer Daxx Garman and true freshman Mason Rudolph, makes sense on many levels. "He's going to be our guy," says senior Daniel Koenig, the Cowboys' most veteran lineman. "He has to be."

If Walsh and the guys up front develop, there are plenty of playmakers to keep OSU's productive offense rolling.

Power back Desmond Roland emerged as a force a year ago, taking over the starting job midseason and finishing with 811 rushing yards, a 4.6 per-carry average and 13 rushing touchdowns.

Receiver may be the team's greatest strength; it's a position stacked with talented breakout candidates, including three — Jhajuan Seales, Brandon Sheperd and Marcell Ateman — who started hinting at their upside as youngsters in critical roles a year ago. The Cowboys added a fascinating wild card in junior college transfer Tyreek Hill, who literally has world-class speed as a track standout and is being pegged as a combo running back and receiver.

STAT CORNER

3.3

Average points allowed per trip inside the 40-yard line by the Oklahoma State defense in 2013. Only four teams allowed fewer.

DEFENSE The Cowboys made great strides on defense under first-year coordinator Glenn Spencer, who successfully implemented an aggressive and attacking style that was first in the Big 12 in scoring defense.

Well, that was fun. Spencer now faces a massive overhaul, after losing seven senior starters and several other key backups. "The fun part about it is, I think this young group is really hungry," Spencer says. "They're hungry to show what they can do. They're hungry to learn. And as a coaching staff, we can hammer in the core principles and values of what we believe in."

There are valuable cornerstones, beginning up front with tackle James Castleman and end Jimmy Bean, two returning starters on a deep and promising line. Cornerbacks Kevin Peterson and Ashton Lampkin, two juniors, have already played a lot in their careers and project as all-conference candidates. So in the pass-happy Big 12, the Cowboys bring rushers and cover men — must-haves.

Still, inexperience at linebacker and safety is a major concern. Ryan Simmons fit in as this group's pup a year ago, starting 13 games as a sophomore and finishing fourth on the team with 67 tackles. Suddenly, he's cast as the veteran and a leader. Kris Catlin and Seth Jacobs, who have worked up through the program, and junior college addition Devante Averette are in play for the other two starting jobs.

SPECIALISTS The Cowboys uncharacteristically struggled in the kicking game a year ago, mostly because of the inconsistencies of kicker Ben Grogan and punter Kip Smith. Both are back, so the hope — and need — is that they've improved. New return men must be identified, although Hill and his dazzling speed have coaches excited his potential on kickoff returns.

FINAL ANALYSIS Oklahoma State lost 28 seniors from a year ago; it was a special group that matched the best four-year win total of any class in program history. So while Cowboys coaches believe they've recruited well, so much turnover, coupled with a challenging schedule that opens with defending national champion Florida State, suggests that a step back is in order. Just how far back depends on how quickly the kids grow up.

DESMOND ROLAND

Tim Umphrey

THE QUOTE

"From the outside looking in, it's a rebuilding year. That's the way I see it. ... They'll probably be down a little."

— An opposing Big 12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (4)

WR	**81**	**Jhajuan Seales (So.)**	17	Austin Hays (So.)
WR	7	Brandon Sheperd (Jr.)	3	Marcell Ateman (So.)
IR	5	Blake Webb (So.)	13	David Glidden (Jr.)
IR	24	Tyreek Hill (Jr.)	1	Ra'Shaad Samples (Fr.)
LT	69	Devin Davis (So.)	74	Michael Wilson (So.)
LG	**58**	**Daniel Koenig (Sr.)**	76	Colby Hegwood (Jr.)
C	57	Paul Lewis (So.)	64	Jesse Robinson (Fr.)
RG	**75**	**Chris Grisbhy (Sr.)**	50	Zac Veatch (So.)
RT	67	Brandon Garrett (Sr.)	60	Zach Crabtree (Fr.)
QB	4	J.W. Walsh (Jr.)	12	Daxx Garman (Jr.)
RB	**26**	**Desmond Roland (Sr.)**	23	Rennie Childs (So.)

DEFENSE (4)

DE	**92**	**Jimmy Bean (Jr.)**	90	Trace Clark (Jr.)
DT	**91**	**James Castleman (Sr.)**	97	Eric Davis (So.)
DT	98	Ofa Hautau (Sr.)	96	Vincent Taylor (Fr.)
DE	89	Sam Wren (Sr.)	38	Emmanuel Ogbah (So.)
OLB	10	Seth Jacobs (So.)	42	Demarcus Sherod (So.)
MLB	**52**	**Ryan Simmons (Jr.)**	40	Devante Averette (Jr.)
OLB	32	Kris Catlin (Jr.)		D'Nerius Antoine (Jr.)
CB	**1**	**Kevin Peterson (Jr.)**	2	Darius Curry (Fr.)
CB	6	Ashton Lampkin (Jr.)	24	Miketavius Jones (Jr.)
SS	13	Jordan Sterns (So.)	7	Tre Flowers (Fr.)
FS	16	Deric Robertson (So.)	20	Larry Stephens (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	19	Ben Grogan (So.)	**KR**	24	Tyreek Hill (Jr.)
P	35	Kip Smith (Sr.)	**PR**	13	David Glidden (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: J.W. Walsh, 190-113-1,333-5, 9 TDs
Rushing: Desmond Roland, 176 att., 811 yds., 13 TDs
Receiving: Jhajuan Seales, 39 rec., 571 yds., 3 TDs
Tackles: Ryan Simmons, 67
Sacks: Jimmy Bean, 4.5
Interceptions: Kevin Peterson, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

TCU HORNED FROGS

NATIONAL FORECAST **39**
BIG 12 PREDICTION **6**

Head Coach: Gary Patterson
Record at School: 120-44 (13 years)
Career Record: 120-44 (13 years)
Co-Offensive Coordinators: Sonny Cumbie, Doug Meacham
Defensive Coordinator: Dick Bumpas
Fort Worth, TX
Amon G. Carter Stadium (45,000)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 7-5, 4-5 (BIG 12)

August	
30	Samford
September	
13	Minnesota
27	at SMU
October	
4	Oklahoma
11	at Baylor
18	Oklahoma
25	Texas Tech
November	
1	at West Virginia
8	Kansas State
15	at Kansas
27	at Texas
December	
6	Iowa State

2013 RESULTS (4-8, 2-7)

Aug. 31	vs. LSU %	L	27-37
Sept. 7	SE Louisiana	W	38-17
Sept. 12	at Texas Tech	L	10-20
Sept. 28	SMU	W	48-17
Oct. 5	at Oklahoma	L	17-20
Oct. 12	Kansas	W	27-17
Oct. 19	at Oklahoma State	L	10-24
Oct. 26	Texas	L	7-30
Nov. 2	West Virginia (ot)	L	27-30
Nov. 9	at Iowa State	W	21-17
Nov. 16	at Kansas State	L	31-33
Nov. 30	Baylor	L	38-41

%Arlington

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Shaun Nixon, RB, Austin, TX
2. Foster Sawyer, QB, Fort Worth, TX
3. Emanuel Porter, WR, Dallas, TX
4. Ty Barrett, OL, Dallas, TX
5. Kenny Iloka, S, Sugar Land, TX*
6. Nick Foster, CB, Keller, TX
7. Frank Kee, OL, Mansfield, TX*
8. Grayson Muehlstein, QB, Decatur, TX
9. Corey McBride, WR, Geismar, LA
10. Vinny Ascolese, LB, North Bergen, NJ*

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big 12	National
Scoring	25.1 ppg	8	87
Rushing	118.6 ypg	9	110
Passing	226.3 ypg	5	72
Total	344.8 ypg	9	104
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
Scoring	25.3 ppg	5	54
Rushing	130.8 ypg	1	21
Passing	225.6 ypg	6	58
Total	356.4 ypg	2	24
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
-2	-0.2	8	74

OFFENSE TCU hopes its beleaguered offense will get a boost from the up-tempo, no-huddle attack installed by new offensive co-coordinators Doug Meacham and Sonny Cumbie. The Horned Frogs also hope new quarterback Matt Joeckel, who transferred from Texas A&M in April, can step in and help run the show in 2014, his final year of eligibility.

Joeckel allows TCU the option to move Trevone Boykin back to receiver, where he was often an effective playmaker in 2013 when he wasn't starting at quarterback.

TCU has speedy running backs B.J. Catalon and Aaron Green returning, and both should thrive in the new system.

Reinforcements were an offseason priority for the line, which struggled a year ago, and the receiving unit is looking to rebound from an inconsistent and unreliable 2013.

DEFENSE Eight starters return to a unit that finished a close second in the Big 12 in total defense a year ago. And that doesn't include end Devonte Fields, who missed the last nine games with an injury. If Fields returns to his freshman glory — when he was named Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year — the Frogs' defensive line, which includes standout tackles Davion Pierson and Chucky Hunter, should be one of the strongest in the league.

All-America cornerback Jason Verrett and safety Elisha Olabode must be replaced, but TCU returns experienced corner Kevin White and safeties Sam Carter and Chris Hackett to a secondary that was among the best in the Big 12 in 2014. TCU intercepted 19 passes in 2013, tied for second-most in the league. Since 2012, the Frogs have 40 interceptions, second most in the nation behind Oregon's 43.

The linebackers, a source of consternation before the season a year ago, turned out to be a reliable unit. Marcus Mallet and Jonathan Anderson return, as does TCU's leading 2013 tackler Paul Dawson. Dawson started the last seven games, including the last five alongside Anderson, who was moved from safety to linebacker before the '13 season.

STAT CORNER

4.4

Average yards allowed by the TCU defense on first down, sixth in the country. If only the offense had handled the Big 12 transition as well.

SPECIALISTS Kicker Jaden Oberkrom and punter Ethan Perry return as reliable third-year starters. Oberkrom made 14-of-18 field-goal attempts last season and has made 79 consecutive extra points, tying a TCU record. Perry averaged 40.3 yards per punt and placed 29 of 80 inside the 20-yard line. Catalon and Cameron Echols-Luper provide an experienced kickoff return duo. Catalon averaged 26.5 yards on kickoff returns, second-most in the Big 12. Echols-Luper's 13.4-yard average on punt returns ranked third in the league and 16th nationally.

FINAL ANALYSIS It became clear to coach Gary Patterson during the Horned Frogs' second year in the Big 12 that major changes were in order on the offensive side of the ball. His defense, long a program hallmark, was maintaining its success in the new league. But the Frogs missed the postseason for the first time since 2004 largely because the offense — which had moved the ball with ease in the Frogs' final years in the Mountain West — failed to produce.

If the offense, under new leadership, can make modest gains, the Frogs could emerge as a surprise contender in the Big 12. TCU went 4-8 in 2013, but the Frogs lost four games by a combined 11 points, including one in overtime. In two other 10-point losses, TCU had a chance to win late in the game.

With better play at quarterback and along the offensive line — two areas that underperformed in 2013 — TCU will be in position to win a few more of those close games and put itself back into postseason play.

SAM CARTER

THE QUOTE

"I think they are a little bit of a dark horse team. They were probably 15 points away from being 8-4 instead of 4-8."

— An opposing Big 12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (3)

WR	81	Ja'Juan Story (Jr.)	7	Kolby Listenbee (Jr.)
WR	13	Ty Slanina (So.)	2	Trevone Boykin (Jr.)
WR	14	David Porter (Sr.)	15	Cameron Echols-Luper (So.)
WR	9	Josh Doctson (Jr.)	29	Jordan Moore (Jr.)
LT	**69**	**Aviante Collins (Jr.)**	59	Tayo Fabuluje (Sr.)
LG	77	Jamelle Naff (Jr.)	56	Frank Kee (Jr.)
C	**55**	**Joey Hunt (Jr.)**	58	Patrick Morris (So.)
RG	43	Cliff Murphy (Sr.)	80	Buck Jones (So.)
RT	**74**	**Halapoulivaati Vaitai (Jr.)**	68	Joseph Noteboom (Fr.)
QB		Matt Joeckel (Sr.)	2	Trevone Boykin (Jr.)
RB	23	B.J. Catalon (Jr.)	22	Aaron Green (Jr.)

DEFENSE (8)

LE	40	James McFarland (Jr.)	94	Josh Carraway (So.)
DT	**96**	**Chucky Hunter (Sr.)**	93	Mike Tuaua (Jr.)
DT	**57**	**Davion Pierson (Jr.)**	99	Tevin Lawson (So.)
RE	95	Devonte Fields (So.)	90	Terrell Lathan (Jr.)
MLB	**41**	**Jonathan Anderson (Sr.)**	44	Paul Whitmill (Fr.)
SLB	**54**	**Marcus Mallet (Sr.)**	**47**	**Paul Dawson (Sr.)**
CB	11	Ranthony Texada (Fr.)	19	Cyd Calvin (Fr.)
CB	**25**	**Kevin White (Sr.)**	27	Travoskey Garrett (Jr.)
FS	26	Derrick Kindred (Jr.)	28	Geoff Hooker (Sr.)
SS	**17**	**Sam Carter (Sr.)**	30	Denzel Johnson (So.)
WS	**1**	**Chris Hackett (Jr.)**	6	Kenny Iloka (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	33	Jaden Oberkrom (Jr.)	KR	23	B.J. Catalon (Jr.)
P	37	Ethan Perry (Jr.)	PR	15	Cameron Echols-Luper (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Trevone Boykin, 176-105-1,198-7, 7 TDs
Rushing: B.J. Catalon, 107 att., 569 yds., 6 TDs
Receiving: Josh Doctson, 36 rec., 440 yds., 4 TDs
Tackles: Paul Dawson, 91
Sacks: Terrell Lathan, 5.0
Interceptions: Sam Carter, 5

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

TCU Athletics

TEXAS LONGHORNS

NATIONAL FORECAST 17
BIG 12 PREDICTION 3

Head Coach: Charlie Strong
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: 37-16 (4+ years)
Offensive Co-Coordinators: Shawn Watson, Joe Wickline
Defensive Coordinator: Vance Bedford
Austin, TX
Darrell K Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium (100,119)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 9-3, 7-2 BIG 12)

August	
30	North Texas
September	
6	BYU
13	vs. UCLA #
27	at Kansas
October	
4	Baylor
11	vs. Oklahoma %
18	Iowa State
25	at Kansas State
November	
1	at Texas Tech
8	West Virginia
15	at Oklahoma State
27	TCU

#Arlington, TX %Dallas, TX

2013 RESULTS (8-5, 7-2)

Aug. 31	New Mexico State	W	56–7
Sept. 7	at BYU	L	21–40
Sept. 14	Ole Miss	L	23–44
Sept. 21	Kansas State	W	31–21
Oct. 3	at Iowa State	W	31–30
Oct. 12	vs. Oklahoma %	W	36–20
Oct. 26	at TCU	W	30–7
Nov. 2	Kansas	W	35–13
Nov. 9	at West Virginia (ot)	W	47–40
Nov. 16	Oklahoma State	L	13–38
Nov. 28	Texas Tech	W	41–16
Dec. 7	at Baylor	L	10–30
Dec. 30	vs. Oregon #	L	7–30

%Dallas #Alamo Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Derick Roberson, DE, San Antonio, TX
2. Jerrod Heard, QB, Denton, TX
3. Armanti Foreman, WR, Texas City, TX
4. Edwin Freeman, LB, Arlington, TX
5. Lorenzo Joe, WR, Abilene, TX
6. Donald Catalon, RB, Houston, TX
7. John Bonney, S, Houston, TX
8. Poona Ford, DT, Hilton Head, SC
9. Roderick Bernard, WR, Houston, TX
10. Jermaine Roberts, CB, New Orleans, LA

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big 12	National
Scoring	29.3 ppg	6	65
Rushing	196.2 ypg	3	36
Passing	212.5 ypg	8	79
Total	408.7 ypg	6	64
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
Scoring	25.8 ppg	6	57
Rushing	183.1 ypg	6	83
Passing	224.2 ypg	5	53
Total	407.2 ypg	6	68
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
+4	+0.3	4	39

OFFENSE Quarterback and the offensive line are the two biggest questions on offense, which makes the first year of the Charlie Strong era hard to predict.

David Ash (63 percent passer, 30 TDs, 18 INTs in 21 starts) missed the final week of spring football after having surgery to repair a fractured left foot. And Ash has to prove he can take a hit — literally — after missing the final nine games of 2013 with ongoing concussion symptoms from a head injury.

Battling Ash is Max Wittek, who graduated from USC in May and transferred with two years of eligibility. Wittek is a 53 percent passer with three TD passes and six INTs in two starts and 14 games played in two years with the Trojans. Wittek provides important competition and a potentially critical insurance policy for Texas. If Ash or Wittek fails to win the job, coaches would look to still-developing sophomore Tyrone Swoopes or incoming freshman Jerrod Heard.

"We don't need a great player, we just need someone to take control of it," Strong says of the quarterback position.

Running back should be a strength as 80 percent of the team's rushing yards return with seniors Malcolm Brown and Joe Bergeron and junior Johnathan Gray.

Four of Texas' top five receivers from last season return, including senior Jaxon Shipley, a security blanket on third down; emerging deep threats Marcus Johnson and Kendall Sanders; and explosive slot receiver Daje Johnson. Tight end Geoff Swaim also figures to play a key role in the offense of Shawn Watson and Joe Wickline.

Texas has to replace three starters from an offensive line that gave up only 16 sacks in 2013. Outside of center Dom Espinosa, who has started every game of his college career (39), and right tackle Kennedy Estelle (eight starts), the offensive line is unproven.

STAT CORNER

198

Plays in which Texas allowed at least 10 yards in 2013, 102nd in the country. The Longhorns were third with only 125 allowed in 2010.

DEFENSE The front four is the strength of the defense, led by end Cedric Reed (10 sacks in 2013) and tackles Malcom Brown and Desmond "Tank" Jackson. Keep an eye on sophomore end Caleb Bluiett, who impressed coaches in his battle with junior Shiro Davis to replace Jackson Jeffcoat.

Jordan Hicks is the team's best linebacker and a key leader. But he's been injury-prone. The defense has underachieved each of the past two seasons, in large part because Hicks missed 10 games in 2012 (groin) and nine games in 2013 (torn Achilles). Texas needs Hicks to stay healthy and for middle linebacker Steve Edmond and outside linebacker Peter Jinkens to take the next step.

The secondary is loaded with talent and speed. But Strong and defensive coordinator Vance Bedford said in the spring that the group lacked confidence and needed to play with the swagger of senior cornerback Quandre Diggs.

SPECIALISTS Gone is Lou Groza Award finalist Anthony Fera, who made 20-of-22 field goals while also punting in 2013. Junior Nick Rose and sophomore Nick Jordan are battling it out for kicker, and seniors William Russ and Michael Davidson are vying to be the punter. Texas needs to get much more out of its return game.

FINAL ANALYSIS If the quarterback and offensive line can play with some consistency, Texas has the talent and depth at running back and receiver to be potent on offense. The defense has a chance to be strong if the back seven can match the strength and intensity of the front four. The schedule is not forgiving early as the Longhorns will face BYU, UCLA, Baylor and Oklahoma — all by mid-October. Any improvement from last year's 8–5 record would probably be seen as a good first year for Strong.

MALCOLM BROWN

Chris Covatta

THE QUOTE

"A lot of it hinges on (quarterback) David Ash's health. If he stays healthy, certainly it will increase their odds."

— An opposing Big 12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	7	Marcus Johnson (Jr.)	88	Montrel Meander (Fr.)
WR	**8**	**Jaxon Shipley (Sr.)**	4	Daje Johnson (Jr.)
WR	2	Kendall Sanders (Jr.)	11	Jacorey Warrick (So.)
LT	68	Desmond Harrison (Sr.)	52	Darius James (Fr.)
LG	66	Sedrick Flowers (Jr.)	63	Alex Anderson (Fr.)
C	**55**	**Dominic Espinosa (Sr.)**	50	Jake Rauterson (Fr.)
RG	76	Kent Perkins (So.)	67	Rami Hammad (Fr.)
RT	**77**	**Kennedy Estelle (Jr.)**	71	Camrhon Hughes (So.)
TE	**82**	**Geoff Swaim (Sr.)**	80	Blake Whiteley (So.)
QB	14	David Ash (Jr.)		Max Wittek (Jr.)
RB	28	Malcolm Brown (Sr.)	**32**	**Johnathan Gray (Jr.)**

DEFENSE (7)

DE	42	Caleb Bluiett (So.)	1	Shiro Davis (Jr.)
DT	99	Desmond Jackson (Sr.)	81	Hassan Ridgeway (So.)
DT	**90**	**Malcom Brown (Jr.)**		Poona Ford (Fr.)
DE	**88**	**Cedric Reed (Sr.)**	91	Bryce Cottrell (So.)
OLB	3	Jordan Hicks (Sr.)	40	Naashon Hughes (Fr.)
MLB	**33**	**Steve Edmond (Sr.)**	**55**	**Dalton Santos (Jr.)**
OLB	19	Peter Jinkens (Jr.)	7	Demarco Cobbs (Sr.)
CB	**6**	**Quandre Diggs (Sr.)**	29	Sheroid Evans (Sr.)
CB	15	Bryson Echols (So.)	**21**	**Duke Thomas (Jr.)**
FS	**2**	**Mykkele Thompson (Sr.)**	44	Dylan Haines (So.)
SS	5	Josh Turner (Sr.)	26	Adrian Colbert (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	23	Nick Rose (Jr.)	KR	4	Daje Johnson (Jr.)
P	19	William Russ (Sr.)	PR	4	Daje Johnson (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: David Ash, 87-53-760-2, 7 TDs
Rushing: Malcolm Brown, 214 att., 904 yds., 9 TDs
Receiving: Jaxon Shipley, 56 rec., 589 yds., 1 TD
Tackles: Cedric Reed, 79
Sacks: Cedric Reed, 10
Interceptions: Duke Thomas, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

TEXAS TECH RED RAIDERS

NATIONAL FORECAST **41**
BIG 12 PREDICTION **7**

Head Coach: Kliff Kingsbury
Record at School: 8-5 (1 year)
Career Record: 8-5 (1 year)
Offensive Coordinator: Eric Morris
Co-Defensive Coordinators: Mike Smith, Matt Wallerstedt
Lubbock, TX
Jones AT&T Stadium (60,454)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 7-5, 4-5 (BIG 12)

August	
30	Central Arkansas
September	
6	at UTEP
13	Arkansas
25	at Oklahoma State
October	
4	at Kansas State
11	West Virginia
18	Kansas
25	at TCU
November	
1	Texas
15	Oklahoma
22	at Iowa State
29	vs. Baylor #

#Arlington, TX

2013 RESULTS (8-5, 5-4)

Aug. 30	at SMU	W	41-23
Sept. 7	Stephen F. Austin	W	61-13
Sept. 12	TCU	W	20-10
Sept. 21	Texas State	W	33-7
Oct. 5	at Kansas	W	54-16
Oct. 12	Iowa State	W	42-35
Oct. 19	at West Virginia	W	37-27
Oct. 26	at Oklahoma	L	30-38
Nov. 2	Oklahoma State	L	34-52
Nov. 9	Kansas State	L	26-49
Nov. 16	vs. Baylor %	L	34-63
Nov. 28	at Texas	L	16-41
Dec. 30	vs. Arizona State #	W	37-23

%Arlington #Holiday Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Payton Hendrix, S, Dallas, TX
2. Nigel Bethel II, CB, Miami, FL
3. Patrick Mahomes, QB, Whitehouse, TX
4. Ian Sadler, WR, Argyle, TX
5. Justin Stockton, RB, Cibolo, TX
6. Josh Keys, S, Seminary, MS*
7. Derrick Dixon, S, Dallas, TX
8. Byron Daniels, WR, San Antonio, TX
9. Keland McElrath, DT, Ripley, TN*
10. Dominique Robertson, T, Redlands, CA*

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big 12	National
Scoring	35.8 ppg	3	23
Rushing	118.2 ypg	10	111
Passing	392.8 ypg	1	2
Total	511.0 ypg	2	8
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
Scoring	30.5 ppg	7	87
Rushing	201.5 ypg	9	98
Passing	217.1 ypg	3	39
Total	418.5 ypg	7	84
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
-14	-1.1	10	121

OFFENSE With both Michael Brewer and Baker Mayfield transferring, it's quarterback Davis Webb's time to shine at Texas Tech. He had a huge performance in the Holiday Bowl against a stout Arizona State defense, and he's established himself as the program's quarterback of the future. The sophomore from Prosper, Texas, looked poised and confident in the spring, cementing his place as the alpha male on offense. Webb has also gained about 20 pounds since the end of last season, and it's helped add noticeable zip to his throws.

Things look to be improved on the offensive line in 2014 as well, as the Red Raiders will return essentially four of their five starters in the trenches, including All-Big 12 tackle Le'Raven Clark. On top of that, the Raiders will add two junior college transfers — Dominique Robertson and Shaquille Davis — who could play their way into the starting lineup.

Kenny Williams, who rushed for a team-high 497 yards in 2013, was moved to defense in the spring, making junior DeAndre Washington the favorite to start at tailback. True freshman Justin Stockton will contribute right away.

Outside receiver Eric Ward and tight end Jace Amaro leave big holes in the receiving corps from last fall, and a few young stars are looking to fill their shoes. Bradley Marquez has been moved inside to Y — where Amaro caught over 100 passes last year — and sophomore Reginald Davis looks to be a burgeoning star on the outside at the Z spot.

STAT CORNER

4.71

Points per trip inside the 40 allowed by Texas Tech in Big 12 play, last in the conference. The defense bent, then broke.

DEFENSE A number of starting defenders have graduated, and an influx of junior college talent is looking to play immediately on the line and in the secondary.

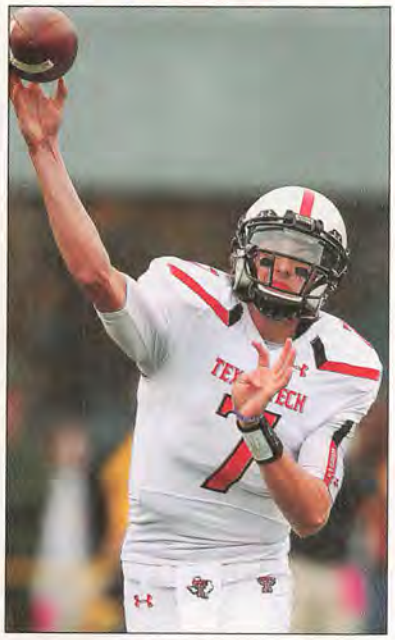
Defensive lineman Keland McElrath has already arrived on campus, and three more junior college transfers will arrive in June. These newcomers will add size to the line as well — their average weight is just over 300 pounds. That's a marked improvement from last year, and defensive co-coordinator Matt Wallerstedt is hoping it will help shore up a run defense that allowed 228.4 rushing yards per game in conference play.

Senior inside linebacker V.J. Fehoko, a transfer from Utah, impressed in the spring, and he established himself as an emotional leader on defense in quick fashion. Williams' move from running back to outside linebacker has been smooth, and it appears that the senior has filled an important need for 2014.

Cornerback Justis Nelson and safety J.J. Gaines are proven players, but questions remain at the other two spots in the secondary. Jalen Barnes, Keenon Ward and junior college transfer Josh Keys will fight to start at the other safety spot, while Thierry Nguema, Tyler Middleton, and La'Darius Newbold battle it out at corner.

SPECIALISTS Kicker Ryan Bustin will return for his final year on the South Plains, and he's looking to improve on a fantastic junior season in which he broke Tech's single-season kicking record with 23 field goals (in 27 attempts). Taylor Symmank will take over punting duties this fall, and the junior impressed with his distance during the spring.

FINAL ANALYSIS Overall, the Red Raider offense looks to be a better unit in 2014, as Webb looks much improved. The offensive line will likely be much better and deeper as well, which likely will result in improved numbers in the ground game. On defense, it's still a bit of a mystery, as the Red Raider coaching staff will have to wait until fall camp to see the revamped defensive line — heavy with junior college transfers — in action. If these players do live up to their hype, things could be looking up on defense, and overall, for Texas Tech in 2014.



DAVIS WEBB

THE QUOTE

"Kliff Kingsbury is sharp. He has a bright mind. People say he's young and inexperienced, but the only thing that kid's ever done is play football."

— An opposing Big 12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	3	D.J. Polite-Bray (So.)			Devin Lauderdale (Jr.)
WR	**11**	**Jakeem Grant (Jr.)**		85	Jordan Davis (Sr.)
WR	**4**	**Bradley Marquez (Sr.)**		83	Brad Pearson (Jr.)
WR	2	Reginald Davis (So.)		14	Dylan Cantrell (So.)
LT		Dominique Robertson (Jr.)		79	Poet Thomas (Fr.)
LG	65	Baylen Brown (So.)		**56**	**Alfredo Morales (Jr.)**
C	**75**	**Jared Kaster (Jr.)**		51	Tony Morales (Jr.)
RG		Shaquille Davis (Jr.)		**63**	**James Polk (Sr.)**
RT	**62**	**Le'Raven Clark (Jr.)**		**71**	**Rashad Fortenberry (Sr.)**
QB	7	Davis Webb (So.)			Patrick Mahomes (Fr.)
RB	21	DeAndre Washington (Jr.)		37	Quinton White (So.)

DEFENSE (3)

DE	9	**Branden Jackson (Jr.)**	12	Zach Barnes (So.)
NT		Rika Levi (Jr.)		Marcus Smith (Jr.)
DT		Brandon Thorpe (Jr.)	93	Keland McElrath (Jr.)
BAN	**10**	**Pete Robertson (Jr.)**	2	Andre Ross (Jr.)
MIKE	52	V.J. Fehoko (Sr.)	6	Kris Williams (So.)
WILL	**13**	**Sam Eguavoen (Sr.)**	18	Micah Awe (Jr.)
RAID	34	Kenny Williams (Sr.)	30	Austin Stewart (Sr.)
CB	14	La'Darius Newbold (So.)	36	Thierry Nguema (So.)
CB	31	Justis Nelson (So.)	24	Tyler Middleton (Jr.)
S	3	J.J. Gaines (Jr.)	19	Jalen Barnes (Fr.)
S	7	Josh Keys (Jr.)	15	Keenon Ward (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	48	Ryan Bustin (Sr.)	KR	11	Jakeem Grant (Jr.)
P	42	Taylor Symmank (Jr.)	PR	85	Jordan Davis (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Davis Webb, 361-226-2,718-9, 20 TDs
Rushing: Kenny Williams, 125 att., 497 yds., 8 TDs
Receiving: Jakeem Grant, 65 rec., 796 yds., 7 TDs
Tackles: Sam Eguavoen, 70
Sacks: Branden Jackson, 4.0
Interceptions: Pete Robertson, 2; J.J. Gaines, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Bruce Schwartzman/Athlon Sports

WEST VIRGINIA MOUNTAINEERS

NATIONAL FORECAST 67
BIG 12 PREDICTION 9

Head Coach: Dana Holgorsen
Record at School: 21-17 (3 years)
Career Record: 21-17 (3 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Shannon Dawson
Defensive Coordinator: Tony Gibson
Morgantown, WV
Milan Puskar Stadium (60,000)

2014 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 3-9, 2-7 (BIG 12)

August	
30	vs. Alabama #
September	
6	Towson
13	at Maryland
20	Oklahoma
October	
4	Kansas
11	at Texas Tech
18	Baylor
25	at Oklahoma State
November	
1	TCU
8	at Texas
20	Kansas State
29	at Iowa State

#Atlanta, GA

2013 RESULTS (4-8, 2-7)

Aug. 31	William & Mary	W	24–17
Sept. 7	at Oklahoma	L	7–16
Sept. 14	Georgia State	W	41–7
Sept. 21	vs. Maryland %	L	0–37
Sept. 28	Oklahoma State	W	30–21
Oct. 5	at Baylor	L	42–73
Oct. 19	Texas Tech	L	27–37
Oct. 26	at Kansas State	L	12–35
Nov. 2	at TCU	(ot) W	30–27
Nov. 9	Texas	(ot) L	40–47
Nov. 16	at Kansas	L	19–31
Nov. 30	Iowa State	(ot) L	44–52

%Baltimore

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Dravon Henry, DB, Aliquippa, PA
2. Donte Thomas-Williams, RB, Durham, NC
3. William Crest, QB, Baltimore, MD
4. Ricky Rogers, WR, Monroeville, PA
5. Lamar Parker, WR, Miami, FL
6. Davonte James, LB, Springfield, OH
7. Skyler Howard, QB, Fort Worth, TX*
8. Daejuan Funderburk, DB, Washington, DC
9. Jacob McCrary, WR, Miami, FL
10. Dontae Angus, OL, Philadelphia, PA

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big 12	National
Scoring	26.3 ppg	7	79
Rushing	148.7 ypg	7	82
Passing	262.3 ypg	4	34
Total	411.0 ypg	5	62
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
Scoring	33.3 ppg	9	99
Rushing	191.7 ypg	8	90
Passing	263.3 ypg	10	106
Total	455.0 ypg	9	101
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big 12**	**National**
-4	-0.3	9	86

OFFENSE Last season's WVU offense was the antithesis of a normal Dana Holgorsen unit. The recurring theme was "three-and-out," as the Mountaineers ranked 113th in third-down conversions. Holgorsen, a noted offensive guru, saw his Mountaineers average 411.0 yards, but they were seemingly helpless to punch it in, averaging 26.3 points in the score-happy Big 12. WVU scored a TD on only 52.5 percent of its trips inside the 20 to rank 103rd nationally.

Mountaineer offensive coordinator Shannon Dawson says WVU is "more suited" for the Big 12 now. "We're deeper," he says. "I think we have 20-something guys who have played Big 12 games. We couldn't say that in the last couple years. The one key factor is the quarterback has to perform well."

Indeed, West Virginia has a stable of fine running backs, including Wendell Smallwood and Pitt transfer Rushel Shell, but finding a quarterback is vital. Last season, Holgorsen found a spark in quarterback Clint Trickett. But in a victory over Oklahoma State, the transfer from Florida State hurt his shoulder and struggled the rest of the season. He was held out of spring drills. Junior college transfer Skyler Howard hit Morgantown in the spring, and four-star dual-threat William Crest does so in the fall.

Look for WVU to emphasize a ground game behind guards Quinton Spain and Mark Glowinski until the passing game can be developed.

STAT CORNER

7.8

Average yards to go for West Virginia on third downs, 115th in the country. That's far too much for any offense.

DEFENSE Defense ruled WVU's spring drills, which might be surprising to those who saw the Mountaineers the last couple of seasons. In 2013, West Virginia ranked 99th nationally in scoring defense. It was also 96th in pass efficiency defense and 106th in passing yards allowed.

But guess what has Holgorsen crowing? "The athleticism in the secondary between last year and this isn't even close," says the coach.

The reason is the emergence of cornerback Daryl Worley, now a sophomore, the experience of three-year starting safety Karl Joseph and a top-flight class of newcomers.

New defensive coordinator Tony Gibson will attempt to use that to his advantage in the 3-4 scheme. His pet pupil is athletic linebacker Brandon Golson, whom he will use all over the field, including at defensive end.

Meanwhile, the defensive line might be devoid of stars, but it does have a nice six-man rotation, including fine sophomore Christian Brown, who can play at both end and nose guard.

SPECIALISTS When Mario Alford ran a kickoff return for a score in the spring game, some WVU fans were thrilled. Others wondered if it was the same old kickoff coverage team. Last season, the Mountaineers were 95th nationally in kickoff coverage and 112th in kickoff returns, averaging just 18.6 yards per attempt. On the bright side, punter Nick O'Toole is back after averaging 44.1 yards per kick. Placekicker Josh Lambert connected on 17-of-23 last year and exhibited an NFL-type leg in spring drills. Pairing Smallwood and Alford could help on kickoff returns. Alford could also handle punt returns.

FINAL ANALYSIS It may be summer in Morgantown, but the heat has been on Holgorsen for a couple of seasons. In 2012, the Mountaineers went 2–6 after a 5–0 start that included a win at Texas. Last year, WVU finished 4–8 and out of the bowl picture. Athletic director Oliver Luck felt compelled to issue a statement after the latter "difficult and trying" season and backed the coach, if seemingly only for this season, adding he has "high expectations" for 2014. The problem for Holgorsen is that the Mountaineers might be better, but that might not translate into a sterling record. WVU opens with Alabama, visits Maryland and plays a full Big 12 schedule.

KARL JOSEPH

THE QUOTE

"Defensively I couldn't really name a guy that stuck out to me. They were pretty active but weren't necessarily full of standouts there."

— An opposing Big 12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	5	Mario Alford (Sr.)	1	Shelton Gibson (Fr.)
WR	**6**	**Daikiel Shorts (So.)**	80	Jacky Marcellus (Fr.)
WR	**11**	**Kevin White (Sr.)**	19	KJ Myers (Jr.)
LT	57	Adam Pankey (So.)	63	Michael Calicchio (Sr.)
LG	**67**	**Quinton Spain (Sr.)**	73	Russell Haughton-James (Jr.)
C	65	Tyler Orlosky (So.)	69	Tony Matteo (So.)
RG	**64**	**Mark Glowinski (Sr.)**	59	Stone Underwood (Jr.)
RT	78	Marquis Lucas (Jr.)	77	Marcell Lazard (Fr.)
QB	**9**	**Clint Trickett (Sr.)**	3	Skyler Howard (So.)
HB	**88**	**Cody Clay (Jr.)**	28	Elijah Wellman (Fr.)
RB	4	Wendell Smallwood (So.)	8	Rushel Shell (So.)

DEFENSE (6)

DE	99	Dontrill Hyman (Sr.)	45	Eric Kinsey (Jr.)
NT	93	Kyle Rose (Jr.)	49	Darrien Howard (So.)
DE	95	Christian Brown (So.)	97	Noble Nwachukwu (So.)
SLB	**31**	**Isaiah Bruce (Jr.)**	40	Edward Muldrow (Jr.)
MLB	**35**	**Nick Kwiatkoski (Jr.)**	**33**	**Jared Barber (Sr.)**
WLB	**2**	**Brandon Golson (Sr.)**	13	Sean Walters (So.)
SPUR	9	K.J. Dillon (Jr.)	18	Marvin Gross (So.)
CB	**34**	**Ishmael Banks (Sr.)**	16	Terrell Chestnut (Jr.)
CB	7	Daryl Worley (So.)	23	Keishawn Richardson (Jr.)
FS	24	Jeremy Tyler (So.)		Dravon Henry (Fr.)
BS	**8**	**Karl Joseph (Jr.)**	43	Jarrod Harper (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	86	Josh Lambert (So.)	KR	5	Mario Alford (Sr.)
P	91	Nick O'Toole (Jr.)	PR	5	Mario Alford (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Clint Trickett, 233-123-1,605-7, 7 TDs
Rushing: Dreamius Smith, 103 att., 494 yds., 5 TDs
Receiving: Daikiel Shorts, 45 rec., 495 yds., 2 TDs
Tackles: Nick Kwiatkoski, 86
Sacks: Brandon Golson, 4
Interceptions: Nick Kwiatkoski, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Bruce Schwarzman

BIG TEN PREVIEW

BRAXTON MILLER, OHIO STATE

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

EAST

1. OHIO STATE **BUCKEYES** 12-1, 7-1 BIG TEN
2. MICHIGAN STATE **SPARTANS** 10-2, 7-1 BIG TEN
3. PENN STATE **NITTANY LIONS** 10-2, 6-2 BIG TEN
4. MICHIGAN **WOLVERINES** 8-4, 5-3 BIG TEN
5. MARYLAND **TERRAPINS** 6-6, 3-5 BIG TEN
6. INDIANA **HOOSIERS** 5-7, 2-6 BIG TEN
7. RUTGERS **SCARLET KNIGHTS** 4-8, 1-7 BIG TEN

WEST

1. WISCONSIN **BADGERS** 10-3, 7-1 BIG TEN
2. IOWA **HAWKEYES** 9-3, 6-2 BIG TEN
3. NEBRASKA **CORNHUSKERS** 9-3, 5-3 BIG TEN
4. NORTHWESTERN **WILDCATS** 6-6, 3-5 BIG TEN
5. MINNESOTA **GOLDEN GOPHERS** 6-6, 3-5 BIG TEN
6. ILLINOIS **FIGHTING ILLINI** 4-8, 1-7 BIG TEN
7. PURDUE **BOILERMAKERS** 3-9, 0-8 BIG TEN

BIG TEN CHAMPIONSHIP GAME: OHIO STATE OVER WISCONSIN

2014 UNIT RANKINGS

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
ILLINOIS	10	10	11	7	13	10	11
INDIANA	4	9	10	3	12	13	12
IOWA	7	7	7	2	4	12	6
MARYLAND	6	11	1	10	6	4	10
MICHIGAN	5	13	8	12	7	1	3
MICHIGAN STATE	3	3	2	4	2	5	1
MINNESOTA	12	8	12	8	9	11	4
NEBRASKA	8	2	5	6	3	3	8
NORTHWESTERN	11	5	4	9	8	6	5
OHIO STATE	1	4	3	5	1	2	2
PENN STATE	2	6	6	11	5	7	7
PURDUE	13	14	13	14	14	14	13
RUTGERS	14	12	9	13	11	8	14
WISCONSIN	9	1	14	1	10	9	9

Miller: Tom Lynn; Gordon: Brian Ebner

2013 BIG TEN STANDINGS

LEGENDS	BIG TEN	OVERALL	LEADERS	BIG TEN	OVERALL
MICHIGAN STATE	8-0	13-1	OHIO STATE	8-0	12-2
IOWA	5-3	8-5	WISCONSIN	6-2	9-4
NEBRASKA	5-3	9-4	PENN STATE	4-4	7-5
MINNESOTA	4-4	8-5	INDIANA	3-5	5-7
MICHIGAN	3-5	7-6	ILLINOIS	1-7	4-8
NORTHWESTERN	1-7	5-7	PURDUE	0-8	1-11

MELVIN GORDON, WISCONSIN

2014 BIG TEN BOWL PROJECTIONS

College Football Playoff Ohio State vs. Alabama
Capital One Bowl Michigan State vs. Ole Miss
Outback Bowl Wisconsin vs. Florida
Music City Bowl Iowa vs. Missouri
Pinstripe Bowl Nebraska vs. North Carolina
Holiday Bowl Michigan vs. USC
Heart of Dallas Bowl Maryland vs. UTSA
Detroit Bowl Northwestern vs. Syracuse
Fight Hunger Bowl Minnesota vs. Arizona State

2013 BIG TEN BOWL RESULTS

Texas Bowl Syracuse 21, Minnesota 17
Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl Kansas State 31, Michigan 14
Gator Bowl Nebraska 24, Georgia 19
Outback Bowl LSU 21, Iowa 14
Capital One Bowl South Carolina 34, Wisconsin 24
Rose Bowl Michigan State 24, Stanford 20
Orange Bowl Clemson 40, Ohio State 35

RECRUITING BY SCHOOL

1. Ohio State 2. Michigan 3. Penn State 4. Michigan State 5. Wisconsin 6. Nebraska 7. Maryland 8. Northwestern 9. Indiana 10. Iowa 11. Minnesota 12. Rutgers 13. Purdue 14. Illinois

PRESEASON ALL-BIG TEN TEAM

FIRST-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	BRAXTON MILLER	6-2	215	Sr.	Ohio State
RB	AMEER ABDULLAH	5-9	195	Sr.	Nebraska
RB	MELVIN GORDON	6-1	207	Jr.	Wisconsin
WR	STEFON DIGGS	6-0	195	Jr.	Maryland
WR	DEVIN FUNCHESS	6-5	230	Jr.	Michigan
TE	JEFF HEUERMAN	6-5	255	Sr.	Ohio State
C	JACK ALLEN	6-1	300	Jr.	Michigan State
G	JAKE COTTON	6-6	305	Sr.	Nebraska
G	PAT ELFLEIN	6-3	300	So.	Ohio State
T	ROB HAVENSTEIN	6-8	327	Sr.	Wisconsin
T	BRANDON SCHERFF	6-5	315	Sr.	Iowa

FIRST-TEAM DEFENSE

DE	SHILIQUE CALHOUN	6-4	257	Jr.	Michigan State
DE	RANDY GREGORY	6-6	245	Jr.	Nebraska
DT	MICHAEL BENNETT	6-2	288	Sr.	Ohio State
DT	CARL DAVIS	6-5	315	Sr.	Iowa
LB	CHI CHI ARIGUZO	6-3	235	Sr.	Northwestern
LB	MIKE HULL	6-0	227	Sr.	Penn State
LB	JAKE RYAN	6-3	235	Sr.	Michigan
CB	BLAKE COUNTESS	5-10	183	Jr.	Michigan
CB	TRAE WAYNES	6-1	183	Jr.	Michigan State
S	IBRAHEIM CAMPBELL	5-11	205	Sr.	Northwestern
S	KURTIS DRUMMOND	6-1	200	Sr.	Michigan State

FIRST-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	MICHAEL GEIGER	5-8	186	So.	Michigan State
P	MIKE SADLER	6-0	170	Sr.	Michigan State
KR	WILLIAM LIKELY	5-7	175	So.	Maryland
PR	VENRIC MARK	5-8	175	Sr.	Northwestern

SECOND-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	CHRISTIAN HACKENBERG	6-4	220	So.	Penn State
RB	JEREMY LANGFORD	6-0	205	Sr.	Michigan State
RB	VENRIC MARK	5-8	175	Sr.	Northwestern
WR	KENNY BELL	6-1	185	Sr.	Nebraska
WR	SHANE WYNN	5-7	167	Sr.	Indiana
TE	TYLER KROFT	6-6	240	Jr.	Rutgers
C	BRANDON VITABILE	6-3	300	Sr.	Northwestern
G	ZAC EPPING	6-2	321	Sr.	Minnesota
G	KALEB JOHNSON	6-4	305	Sr.	Rutgers
T	TAYLOR DECKER	6-7	315	Jr.	Ohio State
T	DONOVAN SMITH	6-5	332	Jr.	Penn State

SECOND-TEAM DEFENSE

DE	JOEY BOSA	6-5	285	So.	Ohio State
DE	NOAH SPENCE	6-3	252	Jr.	Ohio State
DT	LOUIS TRINCA-PASAT	6-3	290	Sr.	Iowa
DT	ADOLPHUS WASHINGTON	6-4	288	Jr.	Ohio State
LB	TAIWAN JONES	6-3	252	Sr.	Michigan State
LB	STEVE LONGA	6-1	220	So.	Rutgers
LB	JAMES ROSS III	6-1	225	Jr.	Michigan
CB	DORAN GRANT	5-11	193	Sr.	Ohio State
CB	JORDAN LUCAS	6-0	193	Jr.	Penn State
S	ADRIAN AMOS	6-0	215	Sr.	Penn State
S	COREY COOPER	6-1	215	Sr.	Nebraska

SECOND-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	BRAD CRADDOCK	6-0	180	Jr.	Maryland
P	CAMERON JOHNSTON	6-0	195	So.	Ohio State
KR	KENNY BELL	6-1	185	Sr.	Nebraska
PR	KEVONTE MARTIN-MANLEY	6-0	205	Sr.	Iowa

INDIANA HOOSIERS

NATIONAL FORECAST **58**
BIG TEN EAST PREDICTION **6**

Head Coach: Kevin Wilson
Record at School: 10-26 (3 years)
Career Record: 10-26 (3 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Kevin Johns
Defensive Coordinator: Brian Knorr
Bloomington, IN
Memorial Stadium (52,929)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 5-7, 2-6 (BIG TEN)

August	
30	Indiana State
September	
13	at Bowling Green
20	at Missouri
27	Maryland
October	
4	North Texas
11	at Iowa
18	Michigan State
November	
1	at Michigan
8	Penn State
15	at Rutgers
22	at Ohio State
29	Purdue

2013 RESULTS (5-7, 3-5)

Aug. 29	Indiana State	W	73–35
Sept. 7	Navy	L	35–41
Sept. 14	Bowling Green	W	42–10
Sept. 21	Missouri	L	28–45
Oct. 5	Penn State	W	44–24
Oct. 12	at Michigan State	L	28–42
Oct. 19	at Michigan	L	47–63
Nov. 2	Minnesota	L	39–42
Nov. 9	Illinois	W	52–35
Nov. 16	at Wisconsin	L	3–51
Nov. 23	at Ohio State	L	14–42
Nov. 30	Purdue	W	56–36

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Dominique Booth, WR, Indianapolis, IN
2. Tegray Scales, LB, Cincinnati, OH
3. Will Dawkins, DB, Vero Beach, FL
4. Tommy Mister, RB, Chicago, IL
5. Michael Barwick, DT, Cincinnati OH
6. Devine Redding, RB, Youngstown, OH
7. Nick Carovillano, DL, Cincinnati, OH
8. Delroy Baker, OL, Ocala, FL
9. Simmie Cobbs, WR, Oak Park, IL
10. Greg Gooch, LB, Longwood, FL

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big Ten	National
Scoring	38.4 ppg	2	16
Rushing	201.8 ypg	4	30
Passing	306.7 ypg	1	17
Total	508.5 ypg	2	9
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
Scoring	38.8 ppg	12	114
Rushing	237.8 ypg	11	115
Passing	290.2 ypg	12	118
Total	527.9 ypg	12	120
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
-3	-0.3	9	79

OFFENSE Indiana plays eight-win offense. The Hoosiers have done that for several seasons. They also play two-win defense. That has needed to change for many seasons. But offense is what gives coach Kevin Wilson the optimism that Indiana can finish a season in a bowl game for the first time since 2007.

Wilson is comfortable playing multiple quarterbacks. He's done that all three years in Bloomington. That won't change. Tre Roberson started four games last season. Nate Sudfeld started eight. Expect them to split time again this fall. Roberson improved his completion percentage to 60 percent last season while making the defense fear his ability to average five yards per rush. Sudfeld won't run much, but he throws a better deep ball.

The Hoosiers lost their top two receivers and tight end, but Wilson always has plenty of replacement parts. Speedy veteran Shane Wynn was the star of the spring game, catching five passes for 141 yards and a touchdown. Freshman Dominique Booth, a decommit from Tennessee, enrolled early and had a solid spring.

After leading the Hoosiers with 958 yards in 2013, halfback Tevin Coleman returned from knee surgery to carry three times in the spring game and show that he's ready to contribute again. With five experienced players returning and sophomore Dan Feeney back from a knee injury, the offensive line should be the strength of this unit. Tackle Jason Spriggs has NFL ability.

STAT CORNER

7.4

Yards per play allowed by Indiana in conference play, last in the Big Ten. The offense is great, but the defense is an albatross.

DEFENSE The numbers never lie. You're not going beat any good teams when your defense allows 527.9 yards per game. Somebody had to take the hit after the Hoosiers were pounded for 38.8 points per game in 2013, so Brian Knorr arrives from Wake Forest to fix a defense that cost coordinator Doug Mallory his job. Knorr is transitioning the scheme to a 3-4 because it fits the Hoosiers' personnel and because that is the alignment Knorr ran at Wake.

Expect Ralph Green to plug the nose guard spot. The pass rush needs to bring more heat. IU delivered 20 sacks last season. Nick Mangieri returns on one edge. Sophomore David Kenney had a productive spring game, and the Hoosiers could use his speed and athleticism.

Indiana suffered with three freshman linebackers last season, but Wilson believes the suffering will end this fall because T.J. Simmons Marcus Oliver and Clyde Newton played through their mistakes. Indiana has not had a linebacker drafted by the NFL since 1979.

When a defense allows 5.4 yards per rush, the passing defense is not always severely tested. Cornerbacks Tim Bennett and Michael Hunter improved their coverage skills but contributed only two interceptions. Antonio Allen has the ability to be a star at safety but is recovering from knee surgery.

SPECIALISTS Aaron Del Grosso inherits the formidable task of replacing the dependable leg of Mitch Ewald for field goals and extra points. Punter Erich Toth averaged 40.6 yards per kick. Wynn returned a punt for a touchdown and also averaged better than 23 yards per kickoff return.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Indiana football story needs to break the endless loop of great offense, awful defense. A shift should begin this season. The defense looked faster, stronger and more determined during the spring game. The offense has more questions than usual after losing three of its top four receivers. But Indiana has two quarterbacks who have played winning football, one of the Big Ten's best runners in Coleman and IU's best offensive line in a decade. A shift from eight home games to six will hurt. And the non-conference schedule, which includes trips to MAC-favorite Bowling Green and Missouri, is far from easy. Finding six wins will be a challenge.

TEVIN COLEMAN

THE QUOTE

"Offensively they are scary as hell with very good running backs and receivers. Kevin Wilson does a nice job with that scheme."

— An opposing Big Ten assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	1	**Shane Wynn (Sr.)**	3	Dominique Booth (Fr.)
WR	14	Nick Stoner (Sr.)	82	Caleb Cornett (So.)
WR	15	Isaiah Roundtree (Sr.)	87	Mitchell Paige (So.)
LT	78	**Jason Spriggs (Jr.)**	77	Dimitric Camiel (So.)
LT	73	**Bernard Taylor (Sr.)**	70	Jacob Bailey (So.)
C	64	**Collin Rahrig (Sr.)**	50	Jake Reed (Jr.)
RG	67	Dan Feeney (So.)	68	David Kaminski (Jr.)
RT	59	Peyton Eckert (Jr.)	62	**Ralston Evans (Jr.)**
TE	84	Danny Friend (So.)	88	Anthony Corsaro (Jr.)
QB	5	Tre Roberson (Jr.)	7	**Nate Sudfeld (Jr.)**
RB	6	**Tevin Coleman (Jr.)**	20	D'Angelo Roberts (Sr.)

DEFENSE (9)

DE	95	**Bobby Richardson (Sr.)**	98	Darius Latham (So.)
DT	99	Adarius Rayner (Jr.)	53	Shawn Heffern (So.)
NG	93	**Ralph Green (So.)**	74	Nate Hoff (Fr.)
DE	56	**Nick Mangieri (Jr.)**	90	David Kenney (So.)
OLB	42	**David Cooper (Sr.)**	44	Marcus Oliver (So.)
ILB	2	**T.J. Simmons (So.)**	51	Kyle Kennedy (Jr.)
ILB	4	**Flo Hardin (Sr.)**	41	Clyde Newton (So.)
CB	24	**Tim Bennett (Sr.)**	22	Kenny Mullen (Sr.)
CB	17	**Michael Hunter (Jr.)**	16	Rashard Fant (Fr.)
FS	40	Antonio Allen (So.)	43	Brandon Grubbe (Sr.)
SS	37	**Mark Murphy (Sr.)**	29	Dawson Fletcher (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	90	Aaron Del Grosso (Fr.)	KR	1	Shane Wynn (Sr.)
P	36	Erich Toth (Jr.)	PR	1	Shane Wynn (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Nate Sudfeld, 322-194-2,523-9, 21 TDs
Rushing: Tevin Coleman, 131 att., 958 yds., 12 TDs
Receiving: Shane Wynn, 46 rec., 633 yds., 11 TDs
Tackles: David Cooper, 85
Sacks: Nick Mangieri, 3.0
Interceptions: 4 players tied with 1

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

AP Photo/Doug McSchooler

MARYLAND TERRAPINS

NATIONAL FORECAST **48**
BIG TEN EAST PREDICTION **5**

Head Coach: Randy Edsall
Record at School: 13-24 (3 years)
Career Record: 87-94 (15 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Mike Locksley
Defensive Coordinator: Brian Stewart
College Park, MD
Byrd Stadium (51,802)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 6-6, 3-5 (BIG TEN)

August	
30	James Madison
September	
6	at South Florida
13	West Virginia
20	at Syracuse
27	at Indiana
October	
4	Ohio State
18	Iowa
25	at Wisconsin
November	
1	at Penn State
15	Michigan State
22	at Michigan
29	Rutgers

2013 RESULTS (7-6, 3-5)

Aug. 31	FIU	W	43–10
Sept. 7	Old Dominion	W	47–10
Sept. 14	at Connecticut	W	32–21
Sept. 21	vs. West Virginia %	W	37–0
Oct. 5	at Florida State	L	0–63
Oct. 12	Virginia	W	27–26
Oct. 19	at Wake Forest	L	10–34
Oct. 26	Clemson	L	27–40
Nov. 9	Syracuse	L	3–20
Nov. 16	at Virginia Tech (ot)	W	27–24
Nov. 23	Boston College	L	26–29
Nov. 30	at NC State	W	41–21
Dec. 27	vs. Marshall #	L	20–31

%Baltimore #Military Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Damian Prince, OL, Washington, DC
2. Jesse Aniebonam, LB, Silver Spring, MD
3. Derwin Gray, OL, Washington, DC
4. Juwann Winfree, WR, Englewood, NJ
5. Will Ulmer, QB, Laurel, MD
6. David Shaw, DT, Spring Grove, PA
7. Tyler Burke, DE, Coatesville, PA
8. Andrew Gray, TE, Chardon, OH
9. Josh Woods, DB, Owings Mills, MD
10. Nnamdi Egbuaba, LB, Baltimore, MD

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	ACC	National
Scoring	26.2 ppg	9	84
Rushing	148.4 ypg	10	83
Passing	248.5 ypg	5	48
Total	396.9 ypg	8	75
Defense	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
Scoring	25.3 ppg	7	55
Rushing	149.3 ypg	7	45
Passing	225.1 ypg	8	57
Total	374.4 ypg	8	44
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**ACC**	**National**
-7	-0.5	14	102

OFFENSE The Big Ten's new kid on the block has the potential to be potent offensively if it can get healthy. Senior quarterback C.J. Brown became the first Terrapin to ever pass for 2,000 yards and rush for more than 500 in a single season, but his physical style makes him prone to injury, particularly behind an unproven offensive line still hoping to add pieces this summer.

But what Brown can do for you, besides make chunk-yardage plays on the ground, is get the ball to two talented targets, speedsters Stefon Diggs and Deon Long, both back from broken legs. Their return should make the Terps better on third down — where they converted just 32 percent of the time (114th nationally) in 2013 — and make Maryland a quick-strike team in a pound-on-the-ground league.

The return of sophomore tailback Wes Brown from suspension improves a running back-by-committee that boasts Brandon Ross and his 776 rushing yards last year. C.J. Brown and Diggs, who will get the ball in a variety of ways in multiple receiver formations, are the main threats, though.

DEFENSE The Terrapins should be stout on the defensive line with nose tackle Darius Kilgo flanked by sack-machine Andre Monroe and quick Quinton Jefferson. There's some depth, too, behind them, particularly in the middle with Keith Bowers and Nate Clarke.

Seniors Cole Farrand and L.A. Goree both return at inside linebacker, and they can locate and discombobulate runners with the best of them. Farrand was honorable mention All-ACC and second on the team with 84 tackles (7.6 per game) despite an array of nagging injuries. On the outside, Matt Robinson is a stud in pass coverage just like a former safety should be. Yannik Cudjoe-Virgil was on his way to a monster year terrorizing quarterbacks when a pectoral injury knocked him out of the last seven games.

Jeremiah Johnson is back from a toe injury that took him out of all but two games, and he's a lockdown corner. Fearless 5'7" sophomore William Likely returns at the field corner. Better play from veteran safeties Sean Davis and Anthony Nixon will help, too.

STAT CORNER

15.1

Yards per catch for Maryland's top five returning receivers in 2013. Big plays aren't an issue for the Terps; little plays are.

SPECIALISTS The special teams were markedly improved last year under coordinator Andre Powell. When Diggs went down and the Terps lost his 23.4 yards per kickoff return, Likely stepped in and averaged 26.0 yards. He had a punt return TD at Virginia Tech. Brad Craddock bounced back from an erratic freshman year to hit 21-of-25 field goals, 20-of-22 inside 50 yards. His 1.62 field goals per game led the ACC. Punter Nathan Renfro had a 40.8-yard average but has been inconsistent and had a rocky spring.

FINAL ANALYSIS There's some talent in tow as Maryland makes the big move to the Big Ten, but there are also questions. After winning seven games last season, fourth-year coach Randy Edsall is still trying to get some traction while he continues to get players out of traction. The team's top three receivers all return from injuries, and several defensive stalwarts are coming back from offseason surgery. If everyone's healthy, Edsall has a team that could be explosive on offense (pending the play of the team's biggest question mark, a makeshift offensive line). And the defense, with nine starters back, should be solid.

But how will a middlin' (7–6 overall, 3–5 in conference) ACC team fare in the Big Ten? It's one of this season's most intriguing questions and one that Edsall's most veteran Terrapin team — 87 percent of last year's late-season two-deep returns — is anxious to answer.

"We'll be ready," C.J. Brown says.

Margaret Bowles

STEFON DIGGS

THE QUOTE

"Randy Edsall, despite what some say, is a good coach. Will recruiting hold up, can they keep the best players in state?"

— An opposing Big Ten assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	1	**Stefon Diggs (Jr.)**	8	Levern Jacobs (Jr.)
WR	6	Deon Long (Sr.)	84	Amba Etta-Tawo (So.)
WR	3	**Nigel King (Jr.)**	82	Marcus Leak (Jr.)
LT	72	Moise Larose (So.)	55	**Ryan Doyle (Jr.)**
LG	50	Evan Mulrooney (Jr.)	68	Silvano Altamirano (Sr.)
C	65	**Sal Conaboy (Sr.)**	60	Stephen Grommer (Jr.)
RG	66	Andrew Zeller (Jr.)	69	JaJuan Dulaney (Fr.)
RT	74	**Michael Dunn (So.)**	75	Derwin Gray (Fr.)
TE	88	P.J. Gallo (So.)	44	Andrew Isaacs (So.)
QB	16	**C.J. Brown (Sr.)**	7	Caleb Rowe (Jr.)
RB	4	Wes Brown (So.)	45	**Brandon Ross (Jr.)**

DEFENSE (9)

DE	99	**Quinton Jefferson (Jr.)**	95	Malik Jones (Fr.)
NT	97	**Darius Kilgo (Sr.)**	91	**Keith Bowers (Sr.)**
DE	93	Andre Monroe (Sr.)	90	Roman Braglio (So.)
OLB	40	**Matt Robinson (Sr.)**	35	Alex Twine (Sr.)
ILB	47	**Cole Farrand (Sr.)**	23	Jermaine Carter Jr. (Fr.)
ILB	53	**L.A. Goree (Sr.)**	46	Abner Logan (So.)
OLB	51	Yannik Cudjoe-Virgil (Sr.)	7	Yannick Ngakoue (So.)
CB	14	Jeremiah Johnson (Sr.)	27	Alvin Hill (Jr.)
CB	4	**William Likely (So.)**		Denzel Conyers (Jr.)
FS	21	**Sean Davis (Jr.)**	19	A.J. Hendy (Sr.)
SS	20	**Anthony Nixon (Jr.)**	22	Zach Dancel (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	15	Brad Craddock (Jr.)	KR	4	William Likely (So.)
P	18	Nathan Renfro (Jr.)	PR	1	Stefon Diggs (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: C.J. Brown, 282-166-2,242-7, 13 TDs
Rushing: Brandon Ross, 166 att., 776 yds., 4 TDs
Receiving: Levern Jacobs, 47 rec., 640 yds., 3 TDs
Tackles: Sean Davis, 102
Sacks: Andre Monroe, 9.5
Interceptions: Sean Davis, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

MICHIGAN WOLVERINES

NATIONAL FORECAST **32**
BIG TEN EAST PREDICTION **4**

Head Coach: Brady Hoke
Record at School: 26-13 (3 years)
Career Record: 73-63 (11 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Doug Nussmeier
Defensive Coordinator: Greg Mattison
Ann Arbor, MI
Michigan Stadium (109,901)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 8-4, 5-3 (BIG TEN)

August	
30	Appalachian State
September	
6	at Notre Dame
13	Miami (Ohio)
20	Utah
27	Minnesota
October	
4	at Rutgers
11	Penn State
25	at Michigan State
November	
1	Indiana
8	at Northwestern
22	Maryland
29	at Ohio State

2013 RESULTS (7-6, 3-5)

Aug. 31	Central Michigan	W	59–9
Sept. 7	Notre Dame	W	41–30
Sept. 14	Akron	W	28–24
Sept. 21	at Connecticut	W	24–21
Oct. 5	Minnesota	W	42–13
Oct. 12	at Penn State (ot)	L	40–43
Oct. 19	Indiana	W	63–47
Nov. 2	at Michigan State	L	6–29
Nov. 9	Nebraska	L	13–17
Nov. 16	at Northwestern (ot)	W	27–19
Nov. 23	at Iowa	L	21–24
Nov. 30	Ohio State	L	41–42
Dec. 28	vs. Kansas State #	L	14–31

#Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Jabrill Peppers, CB, Paramus, NJ
2. Drake Harris, WR, Grand Rapids, MI
3. Bryan Mone, DT, Salt Lake City, UT
4. Mason Cole, T, Tarpon Springs, FL
5. Michael Ferns, LB, Saint Clairsville, OH
6. Lawrence Marshall, DE, Southfield, MI
7. Chase Winovich, LB, Clairton, PA
8. Freddy Canteen, WR, Elkton, MD
9. Ian Bunting, TE, Hinsdale, IL
10. Juwan Bushell-Beatty, OL, Paramus, NJ

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big Ten	National
Scoring	32.2 ppg	4	46
Rushing	125.7 ypg	11	102
Passing	247.8 ypg	4	51
Total	373.5 ypg	10	86
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
Scoring	26.8 ppg	8	66
Rushing	140.2 ypg	5	29
Passing	231.3 ypg	7	66
Total	371.5 ypg	5	41
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
+5	+0.4	2	32

OFFENSE Al Borges is out. Doug Nussmeier is in. And Michigan is hoping that its program under Brady Hoke can be turned around because of it. After the Wolverines finished the 2013 season No. 86 nationally in total offense, Hoke fired Borges and hired Nussmeier away from Alabama. Nussmeier's job? Fix a leaky offensive line, an up-and-down quarterback and two inexperienced running backs.

The biggest on-field concern for the Wolverines this season is on the offensive line. Michigan allowed a national-worst 114 tackles for a loss a year ago and averaged just 3.28 yards per carry as a team on the season. Michigan loses starting tackles Taylor Lewan and Michael Schofield but does return four players (guards Kyle Kalis and Kyle Bosch, tackle Erik Magnuson and center Graham Glasgow) with starting experience from a year ago.

Elsewhere, the Wolverines will rely on sophomore running backs Derrick Green and De'Veon Smith to handle the workload on the ground, while Justice Hayes will likely be the team's third-down back. Combined, all three rushed for just 393 yards on 111 carries a year ago.

After throwing for 2,960 yards, 21 touchdowns and 11 interceptions in 2013, senior quarterback Devin Gardner is back for his final season — with his third offensive coordinator. Gardner overcame a broken bone in his foot last December and practiced at full speed during the spring, putting himself ahead of sophomore Shane Morris in the quarterback race.

STAT CORNER

3.5

Average yards per carry for Michigan running backs in 2013. Quarterback Devin Gardner did a lot, but he couldn't do everything.

DEFENSE Michigan's defense began 2013 where it left off in '12 — as a unit that found a way to keep a struggling offense in games. But as the season progressed, the defense began to slip, ultimately finishing No. 41 nationally in yards allowed per game, the worst mark of coordinator Greg Mattison's current tenure with the Wolverines.

The good news? Michigan brings back a ton of experience and a ton of depth from that group. All three starting linebackers return (Jake Ryan, James Ross and Desmond Morgan). Ryan, who missed half of last year with a knee injury, will move to middle linebacker this season and will likely be flanked by Ross and Morgan.

Up front, Michigan brings back Frank Clark and Brennen Beyer, as well as 2013 contributors Chris Wormley, Mario Ojemudia and Taco Charlton. In the defensive backfield, starting corners Blake Countess and Ray Taylor are back, as is starting free safety Jarrod Wilson.

The biggest boost here, though, might not arrive until August, when five-star cornerback Jabrill Peppers joins the program. Arguably the most anticipated recruit in Michigan history, Peppers is expected to have an impact right away in the defensive backfield, whether it's at corner or safety.

SPECIALISTS Michigan adds the 2012 Big Ten Punter of the Year, Will Hagerup, back to its roster this season. Hagerup missed the entire 2013 season due to a team-enforced suspension. The Wolverines will also have a new kicker this season; look for senior Matt Wile, who served as Brendan Gibbons' backup over the past three years, to step into that role.

FINAL ANALYSIS After Michigan went 8–5 and 7–6 over the past two seasons, the shine from Hoke's 11–2 debut campaign is officially gone. The 2014 season is clearly the most important of Hoke's tenure at Michigan. This is the youngest team Hoke has had during his time in Ann Arbor, but there is plenty of talent on the roster.

Michigan's defense should be strong enough to keep it in games early in the season, but if the offense doesn't show significant improvement, it's hard to envision this team posing too much of a threat in the new Big Ten East Division.

DEVIN GARDNER

Tom Lynn/Athlon Sports

THE QUOTE

"Are they building an offense for (Devin) Gardner for one more year or building for the future for Shane Morris or whomever they recruited?"

— An opposing Big Ten assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	87	**Devin Funchess (Jr.)**	17	Freddy Canteen (Fr.)
WR	86	Jehu Chesson (So.)	10	Da'Mario Jones (So.)
LT	78	**Erik Magnuson (So.)**	52	Mason Cole (Fr.)
LG	65	Kyle Bosch (So.)	55	David Dawson (Fr.)
C	61	**Graham Glasgow (Jr.)**	60	Jack Miller (Jr.)
RG	67	**Kyle Kalis (So.)**	62	Blake Bars (So.)
RT	71	Ben Braden (So.)	72	Logan Tuley-Tillman (Fr.)
TE	84	A.J. Williams (Jr.)	92	Keith Heitzman (Jr.)
QB	98	**Devin Gardner (Sr.)**	7	Shane Morris (So.)
FB	39	Sione Houma (Jr.)	36	**Joe Kerridge (Jr.)**
RB	27	Derrick Green (So.)	4	De'Veon Smith (So.)

DEFENSE (8)

DE	57	**Frank Clark (Sr.)**	53	Mario Ojemudia (Jr.)
DT	69	**Willie Henry (So.)**	73	Maurice Hurst (Fr.)
DT	99	Matt Godin (So.)	43	Chris Wormley (So.)
DE	97	**Brennen Beyer (Sr.)**	33	Taco Charlton (So.)
OLB	15	**James Ross III (Jr.)**	52	Royce Jenkins-Stone (Jr.)
MLB	47	Jake Ryan (Sr.)	48	Desmond Morgan (Sr.)
OLB	48	**Desmond Morgan (Sr.)**	35	Joe Bolden (Jr.)
CB	18	**Blake Countess (Jr.)**		Jabrill Peppers (Fr.)
CB	6	**Raymon Taylor (Sr.)**	26	Jourdan Lewis (So.)
FS	22	**Jarrod Wilson (Jr.)**	44	Delano Hill (So.)
SS	25	Dymonte Thomas (So.)	34	Jeremy Clark (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	45	Matt Wile (Sr.)	KR 23	Dennis Norfleet (Jr.)
P	27	Will Hagerup (Sr.)	PR	Jabrill Peppers (Fr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Devin Gardner, 345-208-2,960-11, 21 TDs
Rushing: Devin Gardner, 165 att., 483 yds., 11 TDs
Receiving: Devin Funchess, 49 rec., 748 yds., 6 TDs
Tackles: Raymon Taylor, 86
Sacks: Frank Clark, 4.5
Interceptions: Blake Countess, 6

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

MICHIGAN STATE SPARTANS

NATIONAL FORECAST **11**
BIG TEN EAST PREDICTION **2**

Head Coach: Mark Dantonio
Record at School: 64-29 (7 years)
Career Record: 82-46 (10 years)
Offensive Co-Coordinators: Jim Bollman, Dave Warner
Defensive Coordinator: Pat Narduzzi
East Lansing, MI
Spartan Stadium (75,005)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 10-2, 7-1 (BIG TEN)

August	
29	Jacksonville State
September	
6	at Oregon
20	Eastern Michigan
27	Wyoming
October	
4	Nebraska
11	at Purdue
18	at Indiana
25	Michigan
November	
8	Ohio State
15	at Maryland
22	Rutgers
29	at Penn State

2013 RESULTS (13-1, 8-0)

Aug. 30	Western Michigan	W	26–13
Sept. 7	South Florida	W	21–6
Sept. 14	Youngstown State	W	55–17
Sept. 21	at Notre Dame	L	13–17
Oct. 5	at Iowa	W	26–14
Oct. 12	Indiana	W	42–28
Oct. 19	Purdue	W	14–0
Oct. 26	at Illinois	W	42–3
Nov. 2	Michigan	W	29–6
Nov. 16	at Nebraska	W	41–28
Nov. 23	at Northwestern	W	30–6
Nov. 30	Minnesota	W	14–3
Dec. 7	vs. Ohio State %	W	34–24
Jan. 1	vs. Stanford #	W	24–20

%Indianapolis #Rose Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Malik McDowell, DL, Farmington Hills, MI
2. Montae Nicholson, DB, Monroeville, PA
3. Craig Evans, DT, Sun Prairie, WI
4. Brian Allen, OL, Hinsdale, IL
5. Vayante Copeland, CB, Dayton, OH
6. Gerald Owens, RB, Westville, NJ
7. Enoch Smith Jr., DL, Painfield, IL
8. Byron Bullough, LB, Traverse City, MI
9. Madre London, RB, Fort Lauderdale, FL
10. Deon Drake, LB, Detroit, MI

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big Ten	National
Scoring	29.4 ppg	7	64
Rushing	173.8 ypg	8	58
Passing	211.7 ypg	7	82
Total	385.5 ypg	8	80
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
Scoring	13.2 ppg	1	3
Rushing	86.6 ypg	1	2
Passing	165.6 ypg	1	3
Total	252.2 ypg	1	2
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
+13	+0.9	1	10

OFFENSE Michigan State still plays power football, but the Spartans can also hurt teams with multiple-receiver sets or by running the read-option with quarterback Connor Cook under center. Cook, the MVP of the Big Ten Championship Game and the Rose Bowl, possesses great mobility and a big arm. Michigan State coach Mark Dantonio likes Cook's resiliency, and he has placed great confidence in the junior by granting him the power to audible at the line of scrimmage this upcoming season.

Running back Jeremy Langford is back after a 1,422-yard, 18-touchdown rushing campaign. Dantonio will be looking to get the ball to Langford more via the pass as well as run this season.

Five players with starting experience return to an offensive line that allowed 17 sacks last season, tied for third-fewest in the Big Ten. Sophomore left tackle Jack Conklin, a Freshman All-American in 2013, has yet to allow a sack in his career.

The Spartans have a deep and talented corps of pass-catchers. Senior Tony Lippett is the most consistent in the group, but juniors Aaron Burbridge, DeAnthony Arnett and Macgarrett Kings Jr. possess star power. R.J. Shelton emerged in spring and looks to figure into the mix, and Keith Mumphery is a deep threat. The tight ends, green a season ago, could figure more heavily into the passing game.

It's an experienced offense that became more multiple as last season progressed, and co-coordinators Dave Warner and Jim Bollman have indicated the Spartans won't slow down.

STAT CORNER

7.7

Michigan State's field position margin in 2013, best in the country. The Spartans forced three-and-outs as well as anybody.

DEFENSE The Spartans lost six starters off a defense that ranked in the top three in the nation in all four major statistical categories, but coordinator Pat Narduzzi insists that the losses don't mean his unit will drop off. "It's called opportunity," Narduzzi says. "We've got players."

Michigan State possesses one of the top defensive end duos in the nation in reigning Big Ten Defensive Lineman of the Year Shilique Calhoun and fourth-year starter Marcus Rush. The Spartans have plugged the departures at defensive tackle adequately, and that's before one of the top-ranked defensive line classes — headlined by Malik McDowell and Craig Evans — reports to camp.

The secondary appears sound, led by captain-in-waiting Kurtis Drummond at free safety and returning junior cornerback Trae Waynes. Sophomore corner Darian Hicks and strong safety RJ Williamson enter fall camp the other projected starters.

The biggest question mark is at linebacker, where Michigan State could have an entirely new look. Senior Taiwan Jones is the only returning starter, and he spent spring trying to transition from outside to middle linebacker. Darien Harris and Ed Davis will likely be the other starters, regardless of how the position shakes out.

SPECIALISTS All-Big Ten punter Mike Sadler is expected to return to form after missing spring drills following knee surgery. Kicker Michael Geiger earned Freshman All-America honors last season, setting a Michigan State single-season record by connecting on 93.8 percent of his field-goal attempts (15-of-16). Shelton is expected back on kick returns and could vie for punt return duties with Kings Jr., who handled the majority of punt returns last season.

FINAL ANALYSIS Michigan State has the potential to make the four-team College Football Playoff with all of the right bounces, but the 2014 schedule appears more challenging than last season's, starting with a Sept. 6 road trip to play Oregon. The Spartans play Ohio State, Nebraska and Michigan at home, but they'll close the regular season at Penn State.

Michigan State's defense will be hard-pressed to lead the Big Ten for a fourth consecutive season, so the offense might need to step up and carry the team until six new defensive starters settle in.

CONNOR COOK

THE QUOTE

"They've found an identity on offense. I thought (quarterback) Connor Cook was one of the difference-makers in the second half of the season."

— An opposing Big Ten assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	**14**	**Tony Lippett (Sr.)**	16	Aaron Burbridge (Jr.)
WR	25	Keith Mumphery (Sr.)	5	DeAnthony Arnett (Jr.)
WR	12	R.J. Shelton (So.)	3	Macgarrett Kings Jr. (Jr.)
LT	**74**	**Jack Conklin (So.)**		Miguel Machado (Jr.)
LG	63	Travis Jackson (Sr.)	61	James Bodanis (Sr.)
C	**66**	**Jack Allen (Jr.)**	54	Connor Kruse (Sr.)
RG	54	Connor Kruse (Sr.)		Brian Allen (Fr.)
RT	76	Donavon Clark (Jr.)	79	Kodi Kieler (So.)
TE	84	Andrew Gleichert (Sr.)	11	Jamal Lyles (So.)
QB	**18**	**Connor Cook (Jr.)**	6	Damion Terry (Fr.)
RB	**33**	**Jeremy Langford (Sr.)**	20	Nick Hill (Sr.)

DEFENSE (5)

DE	**89**	**Shilique Calhoun (Jr.)**	98	Demetrius Cooper (Fr.)
DT	92	Joel Heath (Jr.)	99	James Kittredge (Sr.)
NT	93	Damon Knox (Jr.)		Craig Evans (Fr.)
DE	**44**	**Marcus Rush (Sr.)**		Malik McDowell (Fr.)
WLB	45	Darien Harris (Jr.)	6	Mylan Hicks (Sr.)
MLB	**34**	**Taiwan Jones (Sr.)**	33	Jon Reschke (Fr.)
SLB	43	Ed Davis (Jr.)	30	Riley Bullough (So.)
CB	**15**	**Trae Waynes (Jr.)**	21	Justin Williams (Fr.)
CB	2	Darian Hicks (So.)	36	Arjen Colquhoun (Jr.)
SS	26	RJ Williamson (Jr.)	7	Demetrious Cox (So.)
FS	**27**	**Kurtis Drummond (Sr.)**	35	Jalyn Powell (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	4	Michael Geiger (So.)	**KR**	12	R.J. Shelton (So.)
P	3	Mike Sadler (Sr.)	**PR**	3	Macgarrett Kings Jr. (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Connor Cook, 380-223-2,755-6, 22 TDs
Rushing: Jeremy Langford, 292 att., 1,422 yds., 18 TDs
Receiving: Tony Lippett, 44 rec., 613 yds., 2 TDs
Tackles: Kurtis Drummond, 91
Sacks: Shilique Calhoun, 7.5
Interceptions: Kurtis Drummond, 4

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Photo: Brian Spurlock/Athlon Sports

OHIO STATE BUCKEYES

NATIONAL FORECAST 3
BIG TEN EAST PREDICTION 1

Head Coach: Urban Meyer
Record at School: 24-2 (2 years)
Career Record: 128-25 (12 years)
Co-Offensive Coordinators: Tom Herman, Ed Warinner
Co-Defensive Coordinators: Chris Ash, Luke Fickell
Columbus, OH
Ohio Stadium (102,329)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 12-1, 7-1 (BIG TEN)

August	
30	vs. Navy #
September	
6	Virginia Tech
13	Kent State
27	Cincinnati
October	
4	at Maryland
18	Rutgers
25	at Penn State
November	
1	Illinois
8	at Michigan State
15	at Minnesota
22	Indiana
29	Michigan

#Baltimore, MD

2013 RESULTS (12-2, 8-0)

Aug. 31	Buffalo	W	40–20
Sept. 7	San Diego State	W	42–7
Sept. 14	at California	W	52–34
Sept. 21	Florida A&M	W	76–0
Sept. 28	Wisconsin	W	31–24
Oct. 5	at Northwestern	W	40–30
Oct. 19	Iowa	W	34–24
Oct. 26	Penn State	W	63–14
Nov. 2	at Purdue	W	56–0
Nov. 16	at Illinois	W	60–35
Nov. 23	Indiana	W	42–14
Nov. 30	at Michigan	W	42–41
Dec. 7	vs. Michigan State %	L	24–34
Jan. 3	vs. Clemson #	L	35–40

%Indianapolis #Orange Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Raekwon McMillan, LB, Hinesville, GA
2. Damon Webb, CB, Detroit, MI
3. Marshon Lattimore, CB, Cleveland, OH
4. Dante Booker, LB, Akron, OH
5. Curtis Samuel, WR, Brooklyn, NY
6. Johnnie Dixon, WR, W. Palm Beach, FL
7. Jamarco Jones, OL, Chicago, IL
8. Erick Smith, S, Cleveland, OH
9. Jalyn Holmes, DL, Norfolk, VA
10. Demetrius Knox, OL, Fort Worth, TX

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big Ten	National
Scoring	45.5 ppg	1	3
Rushing	308.6 ypg	1	5
Passing	203.3 ypg	8	88
Total	511.9 ypg	1	7
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
Scoring	22.6 ppg	5	28
Rushing	109.4 ypg	3	9
Passing	268.0 ypg	11	110
Total	377.4 ypg	7	46
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
+5	+0.4	3	36

OFFENSE The Buckeyes went 12–0 in Urban Meyer's first season in Columbus in 2012 and repeated that mark through the 2013 regular season largely on the exploits of quarterback Braxton Miller, backup Kenny Guiton and running back Carlos Hyde, who rambled for more than 100 yards in all but one Big Ten game.

Even with the defense faltering in postseason losses to Michigan State and Clemson, Ohio State clearly displayed it could rack up yards (511.9 ypg) and points (school-record 637) with regularity. And the offense was especially sharp at the outset of games as the Buckeyes outscored foes 229–69 in the first quarter.

It's hard to imagine this year's unit being nearly as efficient, especially considering OSU has to replace Hyde, four starting offensive linemen (including Jack Mewhort) and leading receiver Corey "Philly" Brown.

Still, Miller is back to carry the day, and Meyer continues to surround him with speedsters with game-changing ability. True freshmen Curtis Samuel and Johnnie Dixon, for example, figure to mix in at the skill positions with the likes of Ezekiel Elliott, Dontre Wilson, and veteran wideouts Devin Smith and Evan Spencer.

Taylor Decker will have to anchor the line at left tackle, Mewhort's old spot, while guard Pat Elflein, center Chad Lindsay (a post-graduate transfer from Alabama) and others try to provide stability. Tight ends Jeff Heuerman and Nick Vannett are blocking and pass-catching assets.

STAT CORNER

4.5

Points per trip inside the 40 allowed by Ohio State, 93rd in the country. A young defense couldn't make enough stops.

DEFENSE Meyer believes he has one of the premier defensive lines in the country, and a look at the returning personnel supports the theory. Senior Michael Bennett, ticketed to play an interior spot, is wily and tough, and another former end, Adolphus Washington, also is making a successful transition inside. Ends Joey Bosa and Noah Spence are heat-seeking missiles who give tackles fits.

The linebacking corps lost leading tackler Ryan Shazier to the NFL, but Joshua Perry, who clicked during the second half of last season, will take over his weak-side spot. Local product Darron Lee has the lead on the strong side after showing he has the tenacity and speed for the position. Senior Curtis Grant turned in his best spring according to Meyer and could be in for a productive season at middle linebacker. Then again, Grant has to hold off freshman Raekwon McMillan, who enrolled early and stood out during spring drills.

The secondary will feature senior Doran Grant, who is on track to be OSU's next award-winning corner, while Armani Reeves and Gareon Conley also will check receivers. The safeties — Tyvis Powell and either Vonn Bell or Cam Burrows — are highly athletic and improving tacklers. This unit needs to develop in a hurry, though, as the Buckeyes struggled against the pass last season.

SPECIALISTS The Buckeyes need a new kicker and appear to have found one in rugged freshman Sean Nuernberger. Cameron Johnston made a freshman splash at punter last season and already appears to be the cream of the crop in the Big Ten. Special teams coordinator Kerry Coombs again will put a premium on kick coverage, and the Buckeyes have enough top-flight athletes to make some noise on returns.

FINAL ANALYSIS On one hand, Ohio State has too many unproven players, including several seniors with less-than-inspiring résumés. On the other, the roster is littered with raw athleticism and speed, which can cover up a lot of imperfections. Plus, the defensive line could be dynamite. This would appear to be a transition year if it weren't for the fiery drive of Meyer and the unique talents of Miller. If the slick QB has a Heisman-like season, OSU likely will compete for a spot in the College Football Playoff.

BRAXTON MILLER

THE QUOTE

"If you can get play-action passes going, you can make some big plays against them. They were a little suspect in the defensive backfield."

— An opposing Big Ten assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	6	**Evan Spencer (Sr.)**	3	Michael Thomas (So.)
WR	9	**Devin Smith (Sr.)**	84	Corey Smith (Jr.)
WR	2	Dontre Wilson (So.)	4	Curtis Samuel (Fr.)
LT	68	**Taylor Decker (Jr.)**	66	Kyle Dodson (So.)
LG	73	Antonio Underwood (Jr.)	51	Joel Hale (Sr.)
C		Chad Lindsay (Sr.)	50	Jacoby Boren (Jr.)
RG	65	Pat Elflein (So.)	54	Billy Price (Fr.)
RT	76	Darryl Baldwin (Sr.)	75	Evan Lisle (Fr.)
TE	86	**Jeff Heuerman (Sr.)**	81	Nick Vannett (Jr.)
QB	5	**Braxton Miller (Sr.)**	12	Cardale Jones (So.)
RB	15	Ezekiel Elliott (So.)	7	Rod Smith (Sr.)

DEFENSE (6)

DE	8	**Noah Spence (Jr.)**	88	Steve Miller (Sr.)
DT	63	**Michael Bennett (Sr.)**	77	Michael Hill (So.)
DT	92	Adolphus Washington (Jr.)	90	Tommy Schutt (Jr.)
DE	97	**Joey Bosa (So.)**	94	Rashad Frazier (Sr.)
WLB	37	**Joshua Perry (Jr.)**	35	Chris Worley (Fr.)
MLB	14	**Curtis Grant (Sr.)**	5	Raekwon McMillan (Fr.)
SLB	43	Darron Lee (So.)	36	Trey Johnson (So.)
CB	12	**Doran Grant (Sr.)**	13	Eli Apple (Fr.)
CB	26	Armani Reeves (Jr.)	19	Gareon Conley (Fr.)
SS	23	Tyvis Powell (So.)	20	Ron Tanner (Jr.)
FS	11	Vonn Bell (So.)	16	Cam Burrows (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	96	Sean Nuernberger (Fr.)	KR	2	Dontre Wilson (So.)
P	95	Cameron Johnston (So.)	PR	84	Corey Smith (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Braxton Miller, 255-162-2,094-7, 24 TDs
Rushing: Braxton Miller, 171 att., 1,068 yds., 12 TDs
Receiving: Devin Smith, 44 rec., 660 yds., 8 TDs
Tackles: Joshua Perry, 64
Sacks: Noah Spence, 8.0
Interceptions: Doran Grant, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Ric Fogel/Athlon Sports

PENN STATE NITTANY LIONS

NATIONAL FORECAST 22
BIG TEN EAST PREDICTION 3

Head Coach: James Franklin
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: 24-15 (3 years)
Offensive Coordinator: John Donovan
Defensive Coordinator: Bob Shoop
University Park, PA
Beaver Stadium (106,572)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 10-2, 6-2 (BIG TEN)

August	
30	vs. UCF #
September	
6	Akron
13	at Rutgers
20	Massachusetts
27	Northwestern
October	
11	at Michigan
25	Ohio State
November	
1	Maryland
8	at Indiana
15	Temple
22	at Illinois
29	Michigan State

#Dublin, Ireland

2013 RESULTS (7-5, 4-4)

Aug. 31	vs. Syracuse %		W	23-17
Sept. 7	Eastern Michigan		W	45-7
Sept. 14	UCF		L	31-34
Sept. 21	Kent State		W	34-0
Oct. 5	at Indiana		L	24-44
Oct. 12	Michigan	(ot)	W	43-40
Oct. 26	at Ohio State		L	14-63
Nov. 2	Illinois	(ot)	W	24-17
Nov. 9	at Minnesota		L	10-24
Nov. 16	Purdue		W	45-21
Nov. 23	Nebraska	(ot)	L	20-23
Nov. 30	at Wisconsin		W	31-24

%East Rutherford

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Saeed Blacknall, WR, Manalapan, NJ
2. Chris Godwin, WR, Middletown, DE
3. Mike Gesicki, TE, Manahawkin, NJ
4. De'Andre Thompkins, WR, Swansboro, NC
5. Michael O'Connor, QB, Ottawa, ON
6. Marcus Allen, DB, Upper Marlboro, MD
7. Troy Apke, WR, Mt. Lebanon, PA
8. Koa Farmer, DB, Sherman Oaks, CA
9. Tarow Barney, DT, Bainbridge, GA*
10. Troy Reeder, LB, Wilmington, DE

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big Ten	National
Scoring	28.7 ppg	8	69
Rushing	174.0 ypg	7	57
Passing	259.2 ypg	3	37
Total	433.2 ypg	4	43
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
Scoring	26.2 ppg	7	59
Rushing	144.0 ypg	6	36
Passing	237.3 ypg	8	73
Total	381.3 ypg	8	48
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
-2	-0.2	8	74

Bruce Schwartzman/Athlon Sports

OFFENSE New Lions coach James Franklin has said that he and his staff are going to play to the strengths they inherited rather than asking players to fit into schemes for which they weren't recruited. And right now, the offense's primary strength is sophomore quarterback Christian Hackenberg, who broke 11 school records and finished third in the Big Ten in passing yards per game (246.3) as a true freshman. Hackenberg added about 15 pounds of muscle during the off-season and now stands 6'4", 234 pounds. He should vie for All-Big Ten honors if the rest of the offense comes together. But that's no sure thing.

The Lions are thin up front, with junior left tackle Donovan Smith the only healthy returning starter on the line. None of the other first-team hopefuls — tackles Andrew Nelson and Brendan Mahon, centers Angelo Mangiro and Wendy Laurent, guards Derek Dowrey and Brian Gaia — has started a single game. Likewise, the receiver corps is being restocked following Allen Robinson's decision to forgo his senior year. The key returnee is Geno Lewis, who came on strong at the end of last season, catching seven passes for 119 yards and two touchdowns in the team's last three games. After Lewis, the depth chart is a jumble.

The one area that survived graduation day unscathed is the backfield. Bill Belton, Zach Zwinak and Akeel Lynch are all back after combining for 2,150 rushing yards last season, led by Zwinak's 989 yards.

STAT CORNER

3

Head coaching hires made by Penn State in the last 63 years. Of course, it's also two hires in the last three seasons.

DEFENSE Three defensive linemen with starting experience are back — ends Deion Barnes and C.J. Olaniyan and tackle Austin Johnson — so the Nittany Lions should be able to withstand the loss of All-Big Ten defensive tackle DaQuan Jones. In fact, this is one of the few position groups at which they appear to have real depth. The Lions also have some experience in the secondary with cornerback Jordan Lucas, safety Ryan Keiser and cornerback-turned-safety Adrian Amos.

The biggest changes on defense are at linebacker, where Mike Hull is moving inside after starting at an outside spot last year. Hull doesn't have prototypical middle-linebacker size (6'0", 227), but he's a big hitter with sideline-to-sideline range and enough experience to ensure that the defense is properly aligned. Flanking Hull will be Nyeem Wartman and most likely Brandon Bell. Wartman started eight games last year, while Bell shined at the end of his freshman season.

SPECIALISTS The new coaching staff has talked a lot about making special teams a priority. The Lions finished eighth in the Big Ten in punt returns and dead last in kickoff returns a year ago, but now they have a dedicated special teams coach in Charles Huff. They also have a talented freshman return man in De'Andre Thompkins, who could make an impact. Penn State looks to be solid at kicker, with Sam Ficken back after hitting 15-of-23 field goal attempts as a junior. Ficken also practiced at punter in the spring, but that job will most likely go to walk-on Chris Gulla.

FINAL ANALYSIS Things are looking up at Penn State following the NCAA's decision last fall to reduce its scholarship penalties. But until they get their numbers back up, the Nittany Lions will have to improvise. They raided their defensive line this spring to patch holes on the offensive front, and even with the extra manpower, the unit looks precariously thin. The Lions also lack experience at wide-out and depth at linebacker. The freshman class will help when it arrives this summer, but there's no quick fix for the problems Penn State is facing this fall. Says Franklin, "I think we've got really good football players and great kids here. We just don't have enough of them. That's the reality."

CHRISTIAN HACKENBERG

THE QUOTE

"They are not a team where you look at them and think, 'Oh my gosh they've been on NCAA restrictions.' The cupboard was not bare."

— An opposing Big Ten assistant coach

OFFENSE (3)

WR	7	Geno Lewis (So.)	5	DaeSean Hamilton (Fr.)
WR	19	Richy Anderson (So.)		Chris Godwin (Fr.)
WR	80	Matt Zanellato (Jr.)		Saeed Blacknall (Fr.)
LT	**76**	**Donovan Smith (Jr.)**	77	Chasz Wright (Fr.)
LG	53	Derek Dowrey (So.)	74	Evan Galimberti (Fr.)
C	66	Angelo Mangiro (Jr.)	55	Wendy Laurent (So.)
RG	72	Brian Gaia (So.)	67	Andrew Terlingo (Fr.)
RT	59	Andrew Nelson (Fr.)	70	Brendan Mahon (Fr.)
TE	**18**	**Jesse James (Jr.)**	87	Kyle Carter (Jr.)
QB	**14**	**Christian Hackenberg (So.)**	15	Michael O'Connor (Fr.)
RB	1	Bill Belton (Sr.)	28	Zach Zwinak (Sr.)

DEFENSE (6)

DE	**18**	**Deion Barnes (Jr.)**	31	Brad Bars (Sr.)
DT	99	Austin Johnson (So.)	91	Tarow Barney (Jr.)
DT	98	Anthony Zettel (Jr.)	93	Antoine White (Fr.)
DE	**86**	**C.J. Olaniyan (Sr.)**	90	Garrett Sickels (Fr.)
OLB	**5**	**Nyeem Wartman (So.)**	8	Gary Wooten (So.)
ILB	**43**	**Mike Hull (Sr.)**	38	Ben Kline (Jr.)
OLB	26	Brandon Bell (So.)	30	Charles Idemudia (So.)
CB	**9**	**Jordan Lucas (Jr.)**	3	Da'Quan Davis (Jr.)
CB	10	Trevor Williams (Jr.)	12	Jordan Smith (So.)
FS	6	Malik Golden (So.)	23	Ryan Keiser (Sr.)
SS	**4**	**Adrian Amos (Sr.)**		Koa Farmer (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	97	Sam Ficken (Sr.)	KR	22	Akeel Lynch (So.)
P	37	Chris Gulla (Fr.)	PR	3	De'Andre Thompkins (Fr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Christian Hackenberg, 392-231-2,955-10, 20 TDs
Rushing: Zach Zwinak, 210 att., 989 yds., 12 TDs
Receiving: Jesse James, 25 rec., 333 yds., 3 TDs
Tackles: Mike Hull, 78
Sacks: C.J. Olaniyan, 5.0
Interceptions: Ryan Keiser, 3; Jordan Lucas, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

RUTGERS SCARLET KNIGHTS

NATIONAL FORECAST 73
BIG TEN EAST PREDICTION 7

Head Coach: Kyle Flood
Record at School: 15-11 (2 years)
Career Record: 15-11 (2 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Ralph Friedgen
Defensive Coordinator: Joe Rossi
Piscataway, NJ
High Point Solutions Stadium (52,454)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 4-8, 1-7 (BIG TEN)

August	
28	vs. Washington State #
September	
6	Howard
13	Penn State
20	at Navy
27	Tulane
October	
4	Michigan
18	at Ohio State
25	at Nebraska
November	
1	Wisconsin
15	Indiana
22	at Michigan State
29	at Maryland

#Seattle, WA

2013 RESULTS (6-7, 3-5)

Aug. 29	at Fresno State	(ot)	L	51–52
Sept. 7	Norfolk State		W	38–0
Sept. 14	Eastern Michigan		W	28–10
Sept. 21	Arkansas		W	28–24
Oct. 5	at SMU	(ot)	W	55–52
Oct. 10	at Louisville		L	10–24
Oct. 26	Houston		L	14–49
Nov. 2	Temple		W	23–20
Nov. 16	Cincinnati		L	17–52
Nov. 21	at UCF		L	17–41
Nov. 30	at Connecticut		L	17–28
Dec. 7	South Florida		W	31–6
Dec. 28	vs. Notre Dame #		L	16–29

#Pinstripe Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Justin Nelson, LB, Irvington, NJ
2. Robert Martin, RB, Harrisburg, PA
3. Joshua Hicks, RB, Palmetto, FL
4. Sidney Gopre, LB, Newark, NJ
5. Andre Boggs, CB, Coatesville, PA
6. Tariq Cole, OL, Long Beach, NY
7. Jacquis Webb, OL, Rochester, NY
8. Kam Lott, CB, Jacksonville, FL
9. Marcus Applefield, OL, Weeki Wachee, FL
10. Kevin Wilkins, DT, Montvale, NJ

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	AAC	National
Scoring	26.5 ppg	6	77
Rushing	129.5 ypg	7	100
Passing	235.6 ypg	7	62
Total	365.2 ypg	7	95
Defense	**Per Game**	**AAC**	**National**
Scoring	29.8 ppg	7	80
Rushing	100.8 ypg	2	4
Passing	312.0 ypg	10	120
Total	412.8 ypg	8	73
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**AAC**	**National**
-12	-0.9	10	119

OFFENSE New offensive coordinator Ralph Friedgen — the former Maryland head coach — inherits a wealth of experience and one major decision: Should inconsistent senior Gary Nova be the quarterback to lead Rutgers into the Big Ten or should it be an unproven newcomer? Nova made 23 consecutive starts before being benched for the final three games last season. Redshirt freshman Chris Laviano will challenge Nova for the position through the summer and into preseason camp.

Beyond that, the offense is set. All five offensive line starters return, with four-year starter Kaleb Johnson anchoring the unit at left guard after briefly considering entering the NFL Draft.

The running back tandem of Paul James (881 rushing yards in nine games) and Justin Goodwin (521 rushing yards as a true freshman last year) also returns, along with fullback Michael Burton.

Tight end Tyler Kroft, who caught a team-leading 43 passes last season, has All-Big Ten potential. The wide receiver spots will have a new look, but Leonte Carroo (nine TD catches and a team-leading 17.1-yard average) flashed star potential before being injured at the end of last year. Slot receiver Ruhann Peele (28 catches) will concentrate strictly on offense this season after also being forced to start at cornerback a year ago. Andre Patton, a sophomore, has offered hints of being a No. 1 receiver.

STAT CORNER

4.8

Points per trip inside the 40 allowed by Rutgers, 111th in the country. Meanwhile, the Scarlet Knights' offense averaged just 3.9 per trip.

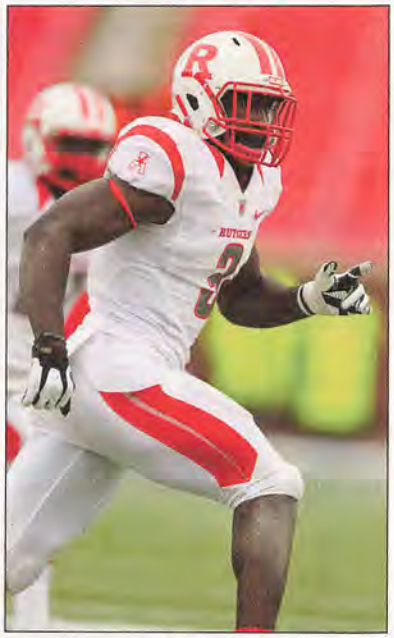
DEFENSE A year after the team set school records for total yards allowed (5,366) and passing yards allowed (4,056), there's a new defensive coordinator, Joe Rossi. Philosophically, there won't be a noticeable change, but Rossi has already left his imprint on the unit with a bold personnel move. Steve Longa, a Freshman All-American last season, and senior Kevin Snyder will switch positions. Longa's speed is better suited for the weak side, while Snyder's size makes him an ideal fit at middle linebacker.

The secondary, which was roughed up a year ago, offers Rossi his biggest challenge after seven different players started at corner — including two true freshmen in the same game — during the 2013 season. Most of the young players now have experience after their trial by fire. Chief among them are Anthony Cioffi, expected to handle one starting corner spot, Delon Stephenson and Nadir Barnwell. All three were forced to play as true freshmen last year. Three-year starter Lorenzo Waters will lead the unit from his strong safety spot.

The defensive line will undergo some change, though tackle Darius Hamilton and end Djwany Mera are returning starters. A key to the line will be the play at nose tackle, where senior Kenneth Kirksey will share time with promising redshirt freshman Sebastian Joseph. Julian Pinnix-Odrick is being counted on to provide a pass-rushing presence at the other end spot.

SPECIALISTS Kyle Federico overcame inconsistency and injuries to establish himself as the starting placekicker, a role the junior will handle again after going 12-of-18 on field goals last season. But there's uncertainty at punter, where junior Joe Roth appears to have the advantage despite never appearing in a game. The return game is in game-breaking hands once again after Janarion Grant dazzled as a true freshman last year on both punts and kickoffs.

FINAL ANALYSIS Rutgers welcomes back a solid group of returning starters, but there is uncertainty at the all-important quarterback position, and the schedule is the most difficult in school history. The defense, torched by teams from the American Athletic Conference in 2013, must show significant improvement. There is a chance Rutgers will be better in 2014 but fail to reach a bowl game for the first time since 2010 and only the second time since '04.



STEVE LONGA

THE QUOTE

"Without a proven quarterback and only Leonte Carroo as a marquee receiver, they will not be dynamic enough to win consistently in the Big Ten."

— An opposing Big Ten assistant coach

OFFENSE (9)

WR	4	Leonte Carroo (Jr.)	88	Andre Patton (So.)
WR	80	Ruhann Peele (So.)	1	Janarion Grant (So.)
LT	**74**	**Keith Lumpkin (Jr.)**	61	Bryan Leoni (Sr.)
LG	**72**	**Kaleb Johnson (Sr.)**	77	J.J. Denman (So.)
C	**55**	**Betim Bujari (Sr.)**	69	Derrick Nelson (So.)
RG	**70**	**Chris Muller (So.)**	60	Dorian Miller (Fr.)
RT	**78**	**Taj Alexander (Sr.)**	73	Ryan Brodie (So.)
TE	**86**	**Tyler Kroft (Jr.)**	42	Nick Arcidiacono (So.)
QB	**10**	**Gary Nova (Sr.)**	5	Chris Laviano (Fr.)
FB	**46**	**Michael Burton (Sr.)**	40	Kevin Marquez (So.)
RB	**34**	**Paul James (Jr.)**	32	Justin Goodwin (So.)

DEFENSE (5)

DE	**93**	**Djwany Mera (Jr.)**	53	Julian Pinnix-Odrick (So.)
NT	95	Kenneth Kirksey (Sr.)	51	Sebastian Joseph (Fr.)
DT	**91**	**Darius Hamilton (Jr.)**	98	Daryl Stephenson (Jr.)
DE	22	Quanzell Lambert (So.)	90	David Milewski (Sr.)
OLB	50	Quentin Gause (Jr.)	38	Myles Nash (Fr.)
MLB	**45**	**Kevin Snyder (Sr.)**	25	L.J. Liston (So.)
OLB	**3**	**Steve Longa (So.)**	36	T.J. Taylor (Fr.)
CB	2	Gareef Glashen (Sr.)	12	Nadir Barnwell (So.)
CB	31	Anthony Cioffi (So.)	23	Ian Thomas (So.)
SS	**21**	**Lorenzo Waters (Sr.)**	29	Davon Jacobs (So.)
FS	26	Johnathan Aiken (Sr.)	27	Delon Stephenson (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	1	Kyle Federico (Jr.)	KR	1	Janarion Grant (So.)
P	96	Joe Roth (Jr.)	PR	1	Janarion Grant (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Gary Nova, 303-165-2,159-14, 18 TDs
Rushing: Paul James, 156 att., 881 yds., 9 TDs
Receiving: Tyler Kroft, 43 rec., 573 yds., 4 TDs
Tackles: Steve Longa, 123
Sacks: Darius Hamilton, 4.5
Interceptions: 5 players tied with 1

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Robbie Rakestraw/Athlon Sports

ILLINOIS FIGHTING ILLINI

NATIONAL FORECAST **68**
BIG TEN WEST PREDICTION **6**

Head Coach: Tim Beckman
Record at School: 6-18 (2 years)
Career Record: 27-34 (5 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Bill Cubit
Defensive Coordinator: Tim Banks
Champaign, IL
Memorial Stadium (60,670)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 4-8, 1-7 (BIG TEN)

August	
30	Youngstown State
September	
6	Western Kentucky
13	at Washington
20	Texas State
27	at Nebraska
October	
4	Purdue
11	at Wisconsin
25	Minnesota
November	
1	at Ohio State
15	Iowa
22	Penn State
29	at Northwestern

2013 RESULTS (4-8, 1-7)

Aug. 31	Southern Illinois		W	42–34
Sept. 7	Cincinnati		W	45–17
Sept. 14	vs. Washington %		L	24–34
Sept. 28	Miami (Ohio)		W	50–14
Oct. 5	at Nebraska		L	19–39
Oct. 19	Wisconsin		L	32–56
Oct. 26	Michigan State		L	3–42
Nov. 2	at Penn State	(ot)	L	17–24
Nov. 9	at Indiana		L	35–52
Nov. 16	Ohio State		L	35–60
Nov. 23	at Purdue		W	20–16
Nov. 30	Northwestern		L	34–37

%Chicago

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Jihad Ward, Philadelphia, PA*
2. Tyrin Stone-Davis, Woodland Hills, CA*
3. Chayce Crouch, QB, Granville, OH
4. Geronimo Allison, WR, Tampa, FL*
5. Nick Allegretti, OL, Frankfort, IL
6. Matt Domer, RB, Hazel Crest, IL
7. Mike Dudek, WR, Napierville, IL
8. Tito Odenigbo, DT, Centerville, OH
9. Peter Cvijanovic, OL, Concord, OH
10. Joe Fotu, DL, San Leandro, CA

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big Ten	National
Scoring	29.7 ppg	6	61
Rushing	139.0 ypg	10	92
Passing	287.7 ypg	2	22
Total	426.7 ypg	5	46
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
Scoring	35.4 ppg	10	104
Rushing	238.6 ypg	12	116
Passing	242.9 ypg	9	81
Total	481.5 ypg	11	110
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
-10	-0.8	11	112

OFFENSE Second-year offensive coordinator Bill Cubit wasn't ready to name a starting quarterback in the spring. He wanted to watch the three challengers compete for the job. But it was clear to those who watched the battle that there wasn't much of one. Barring injury before the opener against Youngstown State, Oklahoma State transfer Wes Lunt gets the call.

There are big hopes at Illinois for Lunt. He has a rocket arm and a quick release. The coaches also rave about his decision-making.

Lunt will rely plenty on running back Josh Ferguson. The dual-threat back led the team in rushing with 779 yards, averaging a robust 5.5 per carry. He was also second on the team in catches.

By far, receiver was the biggest area of concern for the offensive coaches going into the spring. They have to replace three key departed players. Geronimo Allison, Martize Barr, Justin Hardee and Mike Dudek all pushed for playing time with solid results. Jon Davis and Matt LaCosse are threats at tight end.

With four starters back, the coaches are hoping the offensive line will be a strength. Guard Michael Heitz enters his fourth year as a starter. Tackle Austin Schmidt could turn into a star.

DEFENSE Sacks. Fumbles. Interceptions. Areas in which defensive coordinator Tim Banks wants to see a lot of improvement.

The Illini had just 15 sacks in 2013. This from a school that has twice had individual players (Simeon Rice and Whitney Mercilus) exceed that number by themselves in a season.

Teko Powell and "Chunky" Clements figure to see heavy minutes at tackle. Kenny Nelson and Dawuane Smoot get the first shot at end.

Two players return at linebacker with starting experience, led by two-year regular Mason Monheim. While not in the J Leman mold as a playmaker, Monheim often puts himself in position to make the tackle. In an effort to add speed, the Illini moved Earnest Thomas from safety to outside linebacker.

"We need to be more aggressive," Banks says. "When the ball is in the air, go attack it. Make them earn everything they get. Make them throw through smaller windows."

V'Angelo Bentley and Eaton Spence patrol at corner.

Overall, the defense returns eight starters and slew of backups from last year. But the unit struggled to make stops, so is that a good thing? "We like to think it's a good thing," Banks says. "We expect to be better."

STAT CORNER

+1.44

Change in Illinois' per-play yardage from 2012 to 2013. The Illini's improvement was the third largest in the country.

SPECIALISTS Illinois welcomes back both starting punter Justin DuVernois and placekicker Taylor Zalewski. DuVernois finished 59th nationally in punting average with 41.1 yards. Zalewski connected on 12-of-17 field goals but only hit two longer than 40 yards. The return game got a boost from Bentley. He brought back both a punt and kickoff for touchdowns in 2013.

FINAL ANALYSIS The third year has usually been the charm for Illinois head coaches. Mike White, John Mackovic, Lou Tepper, Ron Turner and Ron Zook all reached bowls in their third seasons. Now, it's Tim Beckman's turn to try to keep the streak going. While the school hasn't issued an ultimatum, a bowl bid would help secure Beckman's future. The non-conference schedule is set up for success, with winnable home games against Youngstown State, Western Kentucky and Texas State. Take those three, and the Illini are halfway to a postseason berth.

The offense should continue to pile up yards and points, and the defense can't be much worse. If Banks' guys climb 20 spots or so in national defensive rankings, it will translate to more wins. Beckman's short-term goal is to solidify his position as head coach. Competing for a division title is down the road.

JOSH FERGUSON

Peter Brouillet/Athlon Sports

THE QUOTE

"Their wideouts are good-looking. It's not like you're looking at players that don't look the part. ... They were athletic."

— An opposing Big Ten assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	8	Geronimo Allison (Jr.)	18	Mike Dudek (Fr.)
WR	9	Martize Barr (Sr.)		Tyrin Stone-Davis (Jr.)
WR	19	Justin Hardee (Jr.)	16	Marchie Murdock (Fr.)
LT	**68**	**Simon Cvijanovic (Sr.)**	74	Michael Heitz (Sr.)
LG	**74**	**Michael Heitz (Sr.)**	52	Alex Hill (Sr.)
C	**52**	**Alex Hill (Sr.)**	71	Joe Spencer (So.)
RG	**69**	**Ted Karras (Jr.)**	66	Scott McDowell (Jr.)
RT	57	Austin Schmidt (So.)	67	Christian DiLauro (Fr.)
TE	3	Jon Davis (Sr.)	**11**	**Matt LaCosse (Sr.)**
QB	12	Wes Lunt (So.)	4	Reilly O'Toole (Sr.)
RB	**6**	**Josh Ferguson (Jr.)**	5	Donovonn Young (Sr.)

DEFENSE (8)

DE	58	Kenny Nelson (Jr.)	90	DeJazz Woods (Sr.)
DT	**93**	**Teko Powell (Jr.)**	**44**	**Austin Teitsma (Sr.)**
DT	99	Jarrod Clements (So.)		Jihad Ward (Jr.)
DE	91	Dawuane Smoot (So.)	6	Paul James III (Fr.)
LB	**43**	**Mason Monheim (Jr.)**	42	Ralph Cooper (Sr.)
LB	52	T.J. Neal (So.)	**34**	**Mike Svetina (Jr.)**
LB	**9**	**Earnest Thomas III (Sr.)**	14	Eric Finney (Jr.)
CB	**2**	**V'Angelo Bentley (Jr.)**	24	Darius Mosely (So.)
CB	**27**	**Eaton Spence (Jr.)**	7	Caleb Day (So.)
FS	**21**	**Zane Petty (Sr.)**	26	Cedric Doxy (So.)
SS	3	Taylor Barton (So.)	20	Clayton Fejedelem (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	17	Taylor Zalewski (Jr.)	KR	2	V'Angelo Bentley (Jr.)
P	18	Justin DuVernois (Sr.)	PR	2	V'Angelo Bentley (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Reilly O'Toole, 16-12-141-1, 1 TDs
Rushing: Josh Ferguson, 141 att., 779 yds., 7 TDs
Receiving: Josh Ferguson, 50 rec., 535 yds., 4 TDs
Tackles: Earnest Thomas III, 101
Sacks: Houston Bates, 3.5
Interceptions: Taylor Barton, 1; V'Angelo Bentley, 1

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

IOWA HAWKEYES

NATIONAL FORECAST 26
BIG TEN WEST PREDICTION 2

Head Coach: Kirk Ferentz
Record at School: 108-79 (15 years)
Career Record: 120-100 (18 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Greg Davis
Defensive Coordinator: Phil Parker
Iowa City, IA
Kinnick Stadium (70,585)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 9-3, 6-2 (BIG TEN)

August	
30	Northern Iowa
September	
6	Ball State
13	Iowa State
20	at Pittsburgh
27	at Purdue
October	
11	Indiana
18	at Maryland
November	
1	Northwestern
8	at Minnesota
15	at Illinois
22	Wisconsin
28	Nebraska

2013 RESULTS (8-5, 5-3)

Aug. 31	Northern Illinois		L	27–30
Sept. 7	Missouri State		W	28–14
Sept. 14	at Iowa State		W	27–21
Sept. 21	Western Michigan		W	59–3
Sept. 28	at Minnesota		W	23–7
Oct. 5	Michigan State		L	14–26
Oct. 19	at Ohio State		L	24–34
Oct. 26	Northwestern	(ot)	W	17–10
Nov. 2	Wisconsin		L	9–28
Nov. 9	at Purdue		W	38–14
Nov. 23	Michigan		W	24–21
Nov. 29	at Nebraska		W	38–17
Jan. 1	vs. LSU #		L	14–21

#Outback Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Jay Scheel, ATH, Mount Auburn, IA
2. Markel Smith, RB, Kirkwood, MO
3. Tyler Wiegers, QB Lake Orion, MI
4. Matt Nelson, TE, Cedar Rapids, IA
5. Lucas LeGrand, T, Dubuque, IA
6. Omar Truitt, CB, Washington, DC
7. C.J. Hilliard, RB, Cincinnati, OH
8. Jalen Embry, CB, Detroit MI
9. Miles Taylor, DB, Washington, DC
10. Marcel Joly, DB, Hyattsville, MD

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big Ten	National
Scoring	26.3 ppg	9	80
Rushing	179.9 ypg	6	50
Passing	197.1 ypg	9	93
Total	377.0 ypg	9	84
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
Scoring	18.9 ppg	3	9
Rushing	128.4 ypg	4	19
Passing	174.7 ypg	2	9
Total	303.1 ypg	2	6
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
-1	-0.1	7	68

OFFENSE Unlike this time last season, there is reason to be optimistic about the Iowa offense. Six starters return, including quarterback Jake Rudock, leading rusher Mark Weisman, leading receiver Kevonte Martin-Manley and potential All-America left tackle Brandon Scherff.

Rudock passed for 2,383 yards and 18 touchdowns last season, helping Iowa double its win total from the disastrous 2013 season with an 8–5 record. Hardly a dual-threat quarterback, Rudock showed surprising mobility before being hobbled by a knee injury down the stretch. His biggest flaw was the tendency to force passes into coverage, which resulted in 13 interceptions.

Iowa is loaded at running back, and Scherff is among three starters returning on the offensive line, which is traditionally a strength for the Hawkeyes under veteran coach Kirk Ferentz. The 236-pound Weisman led the team with 975 rushing yards last season, using a bruising style that fits nicely in Iowa's power running scheme. Junior Jordan Canzeri and senior Damon Bullock rushed for 481 and 467 yards, respectively, last season. Both are more elusive than Weisman, while Bullock is also a threat as a receiver. LeShun Daniels, a 6'0", 230-pound sophomore, is also an intriguing option.

There is a void at tight end with C.J. Fiedorowicz having moved on. But much like the offensive line, tight end is traditionally a stable position for the Hawkeyes, and that's the expectation for this season. Senior Ray Hamilton and junior Jake Duzey are among four tight ends with extensive game experience.

STAT CORNER

3.7

Average points per trip inside the 40 scored by the Hawkeyes' offense, 104th in the country. The Iowa defense deserved better.

DEFENSE Six starters have to be replaced, including all three linebackers and an All-Big Ten cornerback. It'll be a daunting task, made easier by the presence of two standout tackles. Senior Carl Davis was one of the most improved players on the team last season, earning second-team All-Big Ten honors after being a reserve in 2012. Fellow senior tackle Louis Trinca-Pasat also progressed throughout last season, his first as a full-time starter.

However, he and Davis won't have the luxury of playing with three senior standout linebackers, as was the case last season. Senior Quinton Alston has waited three seasons to replace James Morris at middle linebacker and now finally has that opportunity. Alston made an impact on special teams last season, in addition to being a key part to a new rush package that was installed in 2013.

Replacing All-Big Ten cornerback B.J. Lowery is a priority, but the Hawkeyes also might have a star in the making at that position in sophomore Desmond King. He started every game last season and finished sixth on the team with 69 tackles to go along with eight pass break-ups. Senior strong safety John Lowdermilk also returns after starting all 13 games last season.

SPECIALISTS Martin-Manley is a reliable punt returner, and there plenty of candidates to return kicks. The kicking game, however, is a concern. Mike Meyer has moved on after handling the placekicking duties the past four seasons. Walk-on Marshall Koehn was listed as the starter throughout spring practice, but incoming freshman Mick Ellis will be given a chance to win the job. Junior punter Connor Kornbrath is back, but he struggled with consistency, so the staff signed junior college prospect Dillon Kidd to compete with him.

FINAL ANALYSIS Many of the pieces are in place for Iowa to continue this latest resurgence under Ferentz, especially on offense. Combine that with a schedule that doesn't include Ohio State, Michigan State, Michigan or Penn State, and has Iowa State, Wisconsin and Nebraska coming to Kinnick Stadium, and there is reason to believe Iowa can be a legitimate contender in the new Big Ten West Division.

MARK WEISMAN

THE QUOTE

"If you like old-school, grind-it-out, knock-the-snot-out-of-each-other style of football, that's what our game against Iowa was like last year."

— An opposing Big Ten assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	4	Tevaun Smith (Jr.)	18	Derrick Willies (Fr.)
WR	**11**	**Kevonte Martin-Manley (Sr.)**	22	Damond Powell (Sr.)
LT	**68**	**Brandon Scherff (Sr.)**	52	Boone Myers (Fr.)
LG	79	Sean Welsh (Fr.)	73	Ryan Ward (So.)
C	**63**	**Austin Blythe (Jr.)**	57	Tommy Gaul (Sr.)
RG	**65**	**Jordan Walsh (Jr.)**	58	Eric Simmons (Jr.)
RT	78	Andrew Donnal (Sr.)	64	Cole Croston (So.)
TE	82	Ray Hamilton (Sr.)	87	Jake Duzey (Jr.)
QB	**15**	**Jake Rudock (Jr.)**	16	C.J. Beathard (So.)
FB	38	Adam Cox (Jr.)	42	Macon Plewa (Jr.)
RB	**45**	**Mark Weisman (Sr.)**	33	Jordan Canzeri (Jr.)

DEFENSE (5)

DE	**95**	**Drew Ott (Jr.)**	34	Nate Meier (Jr.)
DT	**71**	**Carl Davis (Sr.)**	97	Darian Cooper (Jr.)
DT	**90**	**Louis Trinca-Pasat (Sr.)**	67	Jaleel Johnson (So.)
DE	98	Mike Hardy (Sr.)	94	Riley McMinn (Jr.)
LB	39	Travis Perry (Jr.)	36	Cole Fisher (Jr.)
LB	52	Quinton Alston (Sr.)	50	Chad Gilson (Sr.)
LB	6	Reggie Spearman (So.)	43	Josey Jewell (Fr.)
CB	7	Sean Draper (Jr.)	28	Maurice Fleming (So.)
CB	**14**	**Desmond King (So.)**	2	Malik Rucker (Fr.)
FS	27	Jordan Lomax (Jr.)	12	Anthony Gair (So.)
SS	**37**	**John Lowdermilk (Sr.)**	21	Nico Law (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	1	Marshall Koehn (Jr.)	**KR** 33	Jordan Canzeri (Jr.)
P	98	Connor Kornbrath (Jr.)	**PR** 11	Kevonte Martin-Manley (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Jake Rudock, 346-204-2,383-13, 18 TDs
Rushing: Mark Weisman, 227 att., 975 yds., 8 TDs
Receiving: Kevonte Martin-Manley, 40 rec., 388 yds., 5 TDs
Tackles: John Lowdermilk, 78
Sacks: Drew Ott, 2.5
Interceptions: John Lowdermilk, 1

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Harrison McClary/Athlon Sports

MINNESOTA GOLDEN GOPHERS

NATIONAL FORECAST 52
BIG TEN WEST PREDICTION 5

Head Coach: Jerry Kill
Record at School: 17-21 (3 years)
Career Record: 144-94 (20 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Matt Limegrover
Defensive Coordinator: Tracy Claeys
Minneapolis, MN
TCF Bank Stadium (50,805)

2014 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 6-6, 3-5 (BIG TEN)

August	
28	Eastern Illinois
September	
6	Middle Tennessee
13	at TCU
20	San Jose State
27	at Michigan
October	
11	Northwestern
18	Purdue
25	at Illinois
November	
8	Iowa
15	Ohio State
22	at Nebraska
29	at Wisconsin

2013 RESULTS (8-5, 5-4)

Aug. 29	UNLV	W	51–23
Sept. 7	at New Mexico State	W	44–21
Sept. 14	Western Illinois	W	29–12
Sept. 21	San Jose State	W	43–24
Sept. 28	Iowa	L	7–23
Oct. 5	at Michigan	L	13–42
Oct. 19	at Northwestern	W	20–17
Oct. 26	Nebraska	W	34–23
Nov. 2	at Indiana	W	42–39
Nov. 9	Penn State	W	24–10
Nov. 23	Wisconsin	L	7–20
Nov. 30	at Michigan State	L	3–14
Dec. 27	vs. Syracuse #	L	17–21

#Texas Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Jeff Jones, RB, Minneapolis, MN
2. Connor Mayes, C, Van Alstyne, TX
3. Melvin Holland Jr., WR, Ashburn, VA
4. Gaelin Elmore, TE, Somerset, WI
5. Dimonic Roden-McKinzy, QB, Kansas City, MO
6. Andrew Stelter, DL, Owatonna, MN
7. Craig James, CB, Edwardsville, IL
8. Isaiah Gentry, WR, Cincinnati, OH
9. Jerry Gibson, TE, Theodore, AL
10. Rodney Smith, RB, Jonesboro, GA

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big Ten	National
Scoring	25.7 ppg	11	85
Rushing	195.2 ypg	5	37
Passing	148.1 ypg	12	115
Total	343.3 ypg	11	105
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
Scoring	22.2 ppg	4	25
Rushing	158.2 ypg	8	54
Passing	215.1 ypg	5	35
Total	373.2 ypg	6	43
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
+3	+0.2	5	42

OFFENSE Three weeks after Minnesota's loss to Syracuse in the Texas Bowl, the Gophers' most experienced quarterback, Philip Nelson, announced he was transferring. He said he was seeking a more pass-oriented offense and quickly landed at Rutgers. Nelson's departure leaves Mitch Leidner in charge of Minnesota's offense. Leidner battled Nelson for playing time last season, starting four games and completing 55.1 percent of his passes.

Beyond Nelson, most of the offense returns, including 1,200-yard rusher David Cobb. With the offensive line returning almost fully intact, the Gophers will rely heavily on their running game again, especially with redshirt freshman Berkley Edwards flashing loads of promise during spring practice.

Tight ends have become a major part of Minnesota's passing game, especially Maxx Williams, but wide receiver is still the team's biggest concern. Derrick Engel, who led the team in receiving last year before tearing his ACL, has graduated. Drew Wolitarsky and Donovahn Jones both had productive freshman seasons, and junior KJ Maye is back from a sports hernia injury. But the Gophers probably need some of their incoming freshmen to emerge.

DEFENSE A defense that ranked 25th in the nation in points allowed (22.2 ppg) needs to replace two All-Big Ten selections — defensive tackle Ra'Shede Hageman and defensive back Brock Vereen. The defensive line still has Theiren Cockran, who led the team with 7.5 sacks last year, but depth looked like an issue for that unit this spring.

The linebacker corps took a hit this spring when Cody Poock suffered a torn ACL. Poock, who looked ready to start at outside linebacker, didn't rule out a return this fall, but the Gophers wasted little time moving Jack Lynn into the strong-side role. Lynn was stuck at middle linebacker, behind Damien Wilson, who made 78 tackles as a junior. The Gophers believe weak-side linebacker De'Vondre Campbell will be an eventual star, and as much as they'll miss Vereen's leadership, they still believe the secondary is the strength of the defense.

STAT CORNER

9.3

Sack rate by the Minnesota quarterbacks last season. Only two FBS teams (Kentucky and Pittsburgh) were sacked on a higher percentage of their pass attempts.

SPECIALISTS Junior punter Peter Mortell averaged 43.3 yards per punt last season — the third-best mark in Gophers history. Redshirt freshman Ryan Santoso, an Under Armour All-American in 2012, is the leading candidate to take over at kicker for departing senior Chris Hawthorne. Marcus Jones is back after scoring touchdowns on a punt return and kick return within the first two weeks last year.

FINAL ANALYSIS Coming off its best season since 2003, Minnesota has the talent to improve again this year, if the Gophers can survive a more difficult schedule. Coach Jerry Kill's teams have gone 3–9, 6–7 and 8–5 in his first three seasons. He sees parallels to the way his programs progressed at Southern Illinois and Northern Illinois. "We built it on defense, and now you've got to bring the offense (along)," he says. "That's what we've done everywhere we've been."

Kill, who turns 53 in August, faced more questions about his health last season after an in-game seizure against Western Illinois and another that kept him from traveling to Michigan.

He was the lowest-paid coach in the Big Ten last year, at $1.1 million, but the university more than doubled his salary with a new deal that will pay him an average of $2.3 million through 2018.

"I think it shows our commitment to football," Gophers AD Norwood Teague says. "It shows our commitment to Jerry, and it's the right thing to do at this time."

Now, Kill will seek to justify his big payday, as the Gophers move into the Big Ten West. They have a non-conference matchup against TCU and two tough draws from the Big Ten East — Michigan and Ohio State.

DAVID COBB

Tom Lynn

THE QUOTE

"They have a good offensive line and good running backs, but can they get the ball consistently downfield in the passing game?"

— An opposing Big Ten assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	82	Drew Wolitarsky (So.)		Melvin Holland (Fr.)
WR	4	Donovahn Jones (So.)	17	Logan Hutton (Sr.)
WR	1	KJ Maye (Jr.)	14	Isaac Fruechte (Sr.)
LT	78	Ben Lauer (So.)	74	Marek Lenkiewicz (Sr.)
LG	**52**	**Zac Epping (Sr.)**	77	Foster Bush (Jr.)
C	53	Tommy Olson (Sr.)	**63**	**Jon Christenson (Jr.)**
RG	**65**	**Josh Campion (Jr.)**	**64**	**Caleb Bak (Sr.)**
RT	79	Jonah Pirsig (So.)	76	Alex Mayes (Fr.)
TE	**88**	**Maxx Williams (So.)**	**83**	**Drew Goodger (Sr.)**
QB	7	Mitch Leidner (So.)	5	Chris Streveler (Fr.)
RB	**27**	**David Cobb (Sr.)**	32	Berkley Edwards (Fr.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	**55**	**Theiren Cockran (Jr.)**	93	Ben Perry (Sr.)
DT	**46**	**Cameron Botticelli (Sr.)**	90	Demaris Peppers (Fr.)
DT	97	Scott Ekpe (Jr.)		Steven Richardson (Fr.)
DE	**98**	**Michael Amaefula (Sr.)**	95	Hendrick Ekpe (So.)
WLB	26	De'Vondre Campbell (Jr.)	38	De'Niro Laster (Fr.)
MLB	**5**	**Damien Wilson (Sr.)**	56	Nick Rallis (So.)
SLB	50	Jack Lynn (So.)	59	Ray Dixon (Fr.)
CB	**31**	**Eric Murray (Jr.)**	28	Jalen Myrick (So.)
CB	29	Briean Boddy-Calhoun (Jr.)	13	Derrick Wells (Sr.)
S	**2**	**Cedric Thompson (Sr.)**	8	Daletavious McGhee (Fr.)
S	**11**	**Antonio Johnson (Jr.)**	7	Damarius Travis (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	28	Ryan Santoso (Fr.)	KR	15	Marcus Jones (Sr.)
P	37	Peter Mortell (Jr.)	PR	15	Marcus Jones (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Mitch Leidner, 78-43-619-1, 3 TDs
Rushing: David Cobb, 237 att., 1,202 yds., 7 TDs
Receiving: Maxx Williams, 25 rec., 417 yds., 5 TDs
Tackles: Cedric Thompson, 79
Sacks: Theiren Cockran, 7.5
Interceptions: 4 players tied with 1

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

NEBRASKA CORNHUSKERS

NATIONAL FORECAST **29**
BIG TEN WEST PREDICTION **3**

Head Coach: Bo Pelini
Record at School: 58-24 (6 years)
Career Record: 58-24 (6 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Tim Beck
Defensive Coordinator: John Papuchis
Lincoln, NE
Memorial Stadium (87,000)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 9-3, 5-3 (BIG TEN)

August	
30	Florida Atlantic
September	
6	McNeese State
13	at Fresno State
20	Miami
27	Illinois
October	
4	at Michigan State
18	at Northwestern
25	Rutgers
November	
1	Purdue
15	at Wisconsin
22	Minnesota
28	at Iowa

2013 RESULTS (9-4, 5-3)

Aug. 31	Wyoming	W	37–34
Sept. 7	Southern Miss	W	56–13
Sept. 14	UCLA	L	21–41
Sept. 21	South Dakota State	W	59–20
Oct. 5	Illinois	W	39–19
Oct. 12	at Purdue	W	44–7
Oct. 26	at Minnesota	L	23–34
Nov. 2	Northwestern	W	27–24
Nov. 9	at Michigan	W	13–17
Nov. 16	Michigan State	L	28–41
Nov. 23	at Penn State (ot)	W	23–20
Nov. 29	Iowa	L	17–38
Jan. 1	vs. Georgia #	W	24–19

#Gator Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Tanner Farmer, OL, Highland, IL
2. Nick Gates, OL, Las Vegas, NV
3. Peyton Newell, DT, Hiawatha, KS
4. Mikale Wilbon, RB, Chicago, IL
5. Monte Harrison, WR, Lee's Summit, MO
6. Joe Keels, DE, Kenosha, WI*
7. D.J. Foster, OL, Lincoln, NE
8. Zack Darlington, QB, Apopka, FL
9. Jaevon Walton, LB, New Orleans, LA
10. Trai Mosley, CB, Pflugerville, TX

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big Ten	National
Scoring	31.9 ppg	5	48
Rushing	215.7 ypg	3	19
Passing	196.7 ypg	11	95
Total	412.4 ypg	6	58
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
Scoring	24.8 ppg	6	50
Rushing	156.2 ypg	7	53
Passing	214.6 ypg	4	33
Total	370.8 ypg	4	40
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
-11	-0.8	12	117

OFFENSE All-Big Ten running back Ameer Abdullah is back after considering an early exit by way of the NFL Draft. Abdullah rushed for 1,690 yards, fourth-most in Husker history, with 100 or more yards in 11 games. There's depth at I-back, including big back Imani Cross, who scored 10 touchdowns on just 85 carries. Ball security has been an emphasis for Abdullah and the rest of the offense.

Abdullah caught 26 passes, third-most on the team. But the Huskers ranked next-to-last in the conference in passing. Sophomore quarterback Tommy Armstrong Jr. is a threat on the option but threw almost as many interceptions, eight, as touchdown passes, nine. That has to change.

Kenny Bell, who has more career receptions than the rest of the wide receivers combined, is in position to become the leading receiver, statistically, in school history. Jamal Turner is a game-breaker but has never become the consistent threat expected when he was moved from quarterback as a freshman. He was limited by injury last season.

A key to success will be the development of a rebuilt offensive line. Left guard Jake Cotton is among the team's emotional leaders. Left tackle Alex Lewis, a transfer from Colorado, is a potential star.

DEFENSE Even though the Huskers are young on defense, this side of the ball should be the strength of the team, with end Randy Gregory, an All-America candidate, leading the way. He led the Big Ten with 10.5 sacks, nine of them in conference play. The Huskers' marked defensive improvement over the course of last season coincided with his development following a transfer from Arizona Western Community College. Sophomore tackles Vincent Valentine and Maliek Collins will anchor the middle of the line. They need to stay healthy, unless some young players develop quickly.

Depth isn't a problem at linebacker, which has a wealth of returning players, including Trevor Roach, who missed last season because of injury. David Santos was second on the team in tackles but will have to compete for playing time. Sophomores Michael Rose and Josh Banderas are also important pieces.

Safety Corey Cooper and cornerback Josh Mitchell are the most experienced players on defense, with a combined 32 starts. Mitchell is among the team's vocal leaders.

STAT CORNER

6.3

Yards allowed on first down by the Nebraska defense in 2013. That ranked 97th in the nation.

SPECIALISTS The Huskers ranked 121st nationally in punt returns; their longest was 19 yards. Incoming freshmen should help, Glenn Irons prominent among them with nine return touchdowns as a high school senior. Bell tied for the Big Ten lead in kickoff-return average. The senior wide receiver returned a kickoff 99 yards for a touchdown against Penn State. Punter Sam Foltz, a walk-on, is back, but placekicker Pat Smith must be replaced. Mauro Bondi, who had 48 touchbacks on kickoffs, will be challenged by freshman Drew Brown.

FINAL ANALYSIS Bo Pelini's record is 58–24, with at least nine victories in each of his six seasons. But he has yet to coach a conference champion. In fact, Nebraska hasn't won a conference title since 1999, much too long for a program with three national titles in the five years prior to that.

In the aftermath of a 38–17 regular-season-ending loss to Iowa, speculation spread that Pelini's tenure as coach might be over. But he has since received a contract extension through the 2018 season. Extension or not, however, there's pressure to win a championship and return to national relevance. The Huskers should have the defense for that. The question is whether the offense can be balanced enough to get the job done against a schedule that sets up very well in a restructured division of the expanded Big Ten.

AMEER ABDULLAH

THE QUOTE

"They have enough to win the division, no doubt. Their offensive line will be young but it will be talented."

— An opposing Big Ten assistant coach

OFFENSE (3)

WR	**80**	**Kenny Bell (Sr.)**	87	Brandon Reilly (So.)
WR	10	Jamal Turner (Sr.)	1	Jordan Westerkamp (So.)
WR	9	Sam Burtch (Jr.)	7	Taariq Allen (Jr.)
LT	71	Alex Lewis (Jr.)	77	David Knevel (Fr.)
LG	**68**	**Jake Cotton (Sr.)**	70	Chongo Kondolo (Jr.)
C	65	Ryne Reeves (Jr.)	56	Mark Pelini (Sr.)
RG	74	Mike Moudy (Sr.)	78	Givens Price (Jr.)
RT	57	Zach Sterup (Jr.)	59	Matt Finnin (Jr.)
TE	11	Cethan Carter (So.)	84	Sam Cotton (So.)
QB	4	Tommy Armstrong Jr. (So.)	17	Ryker Fyfe (So.)
IB	**8**	**Ameer Abdullah (Sr.)**	32	Imani Cross (Jr.)

DEFENSE (5)

DE	**44**	**Randy Gregory (Jr.)**	9	Joe Keels (Jr.)
DT	7	Maliek Collins (So.)	**96**	**Aaron Curry (Jr.)**
DT	98	Vincent Valentine (So.)	55	Kevin Maurice (So.)
DE	90	Greg McMullen (So.)	45	A.J. Natter (Fr.)
LB	**41**	**David Santos (Jr.)**	3	Marcus Newby (Fr.)
LB	52	Josh Banderas (So.)	**15**	**Michael Rose (So.)**
LB	13	Zaire Anderson (Sr.)	43	Trevor Roach (Sr.)
CB	5	Josh Mitchell (Sr.)	14	Jonathan Rose (Jr.)
CB	21	Charles Jackson (Jr.)	28	Byerson Cockrell (Jr.)
S	**6**	**Corey Cooper (Sr.)**	36	Drake Martinez (Fr.)
S	18	LeRoy Alexander (So.)	25	Nathan Gerry (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K		Drew Brown (Fr.)	**KR** 80	Kenny Bell (Sr.)
P	27	Sam Foltz (So.)	**PR**	Glenn Irons (Fr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Tommy Armstrong Jr., 131-68-966-8, 9 TDs
Rushing: Ameer Abdullah, 281 att., 1,690 yds., 9 TDs
Receiving: Kenny Bell, 52 rec., 577 yds., 4 TDs
Tackles: Corey Cooper, 91
Sacks: Randy Gregory, 10.5
Interceptions: 4 players tied with 1

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Paul J Levy/Athlon Sports

NORTHWESTERN WILDCATS

NATIONAL FORECAST **51**
BIG TEN WEST PREDICTION **4**

Head Coach: Pat Fitzgerald
Record at School: 55-46 (8 years)
Career Record: 55-46 (8 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Mick McCall
Defensive Coordinator: Mike Hankwitz
Evanston, IL
Ryan Field (47,330)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 6-6, 3-5 (BIG TEN)

August	
30	California
September	
6	Northern Illinois
20	Western Illinois
27	at Penn State
October	
4	Wisconsin
11	at Minnesota
18	Nebraska
November	
1	at Iowa
8	Michigan
15	at Notre Dame
22	at Purdue
29	Illinois

2013 RESULTS (5-7, 1-7)

Aug. 31	at California		W	44-30
Sept. 7	Syracuse		W	48-27
Sept. 14	Western Michigan		W	38-17
Sept. 21	Maine		W	35-21
Oct. 5	Ohio State		L	30-40
Oct. 12	at Wisconsin		L	6-35
Oct. 19	Minnesota		L	17-20
Oct. 26	at Iowa	(ot)	L	10-17
Nov. 2	at Nebraska		L	24-27
Nov. 16	Michigan	(ot)	L	19-27
Nov. 23	Michigan State		L	6-30
Nov. 30	at Illinois		W	37-34

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Parrker Westphal, CB, Bolingbrook, IL
2. Justin Jackson, RB, Carol Stream, IL
3. Clayton Thorson, QB, Wheaton, IL
4. Garrett Dickerson, TE, Englewood, NJ
5. Auston Anderson, RB, Plano, TX
6. Blake Hance, OL, Jacksonville, IL
7. Tommy Doles, OL, Grand Rapids, MI
8. Ben Oxley, DL, Avon Lake, OH
9. Fred Wyatt, DT, Lawrence KS
10. Solomon Vault, WR, Gaithersburg, MD

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big Ten	National
Scoring	26.2 ppg	10	83
Rushing	172.4 ypg	9	62
Passing	227.2 ypg	5	69
Total	399.6 ypg	7	73
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
Scoring	27.1 ppg	9	68
Rushing	167.3 ypg	9	68
Passing	256.2 ypg	10	99
Total	423.5 ypg	9	88
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
+3	+0.3	4	41

OFFENSE After two years with a two-quarterback system and a run-oriented attack, Northwestern likely will return to its pass-first roots under coordinator Mick McCall. Trevor Siemian put to rest any questions about a quarterback competition with an impressive spring. He boasts a plus arm and has been productive when healthy.

If protected, Siemian should capitalize on Northwestern's depth at the wide receiver and superback (tight end/H-back) positions. Veterans Tony Jones and Christian Jones return at wideout, and Rutgers transfer Miles Shuler is a prototype slot receiver who can stretch defenses with his speed. Kyle Prater is finally healthy and provides size on the perimeter, and top superback Dan Vitale has star potential after recording 62 receptions in his first two seasons.

Although the offense should have a passing lean, it also looks strong at running back, especially with Venric Mark returning after an injury-plagued 2013 season. Mark eclipsed 1,300 rushing yards in 2012, and despite his size provides a between-the-tackles threat. Treyvon Green is a solid backup, and Warren Long and Stephen Buckley both will push for carries.

The depth at the skill positions won't matter if the line doesn't dramatically improve. Competition ramped up at several positions in the spring. Other than center Brandon Vitabile and tackle Paul Jorgensen, no spot is safe. Northwestern had its lowest third-down conversion percentage (39.9) since 2006 and must get back to moving the chains.

STAT CORNER

36.4

Percent of the 22 fumbles recovered by Northwestern in its games last season. Only eight FBS teams recovered a lower percentage.

DEFENSE Seven starters return on a unit that repeatedly put Northwestern in position to win last season. "We were five plays away from winning five more games," coordinator Mike Hankwitz says. "We've just got to make those plays." Takeaways could be a hallmark for the defense, especially a secondary featuring more depth than any in coach Pat Fitzgerald's tenure. Senior safety Ibraheim Campbell is the headliner of the secondary, but Northwestern will be able to go two or three deep at every position as several redshirt freshmen, including safeties Godwin Igwebuike and Kyle Queiro, enter the mix.

Two veteran playmakers return at linebacker in Chi Chi Ariguzo and Collin Ellis, who has moved from the strong side to the middle. They combined for seven interceptions and 184 tackles last season.

Offseason surgeries hit the defensive line hard, creating some question marks entering the fall. The pass rush should be strong with ends Dean Lowry, Deonte Gibson and Ifeadi Odenigbo. Defensive tackle was a weak point a year ago, and Northwestern needs Sean McEvilly to stay healthy and C.J. Robbins to build on his strong finish. Opponents ran at the middle of the Wildcats' defense too easily in 2013.

SPECIALISTS The Wildcats lose a huge piece in the kicking game in Jeff Budzien, the Big Ten's top placekicker each of the past two years, but they also regain a weapon in Mark, an All-America punt returner in 2012. Northwestern needs Arthur Omilian or Hunter Niswander to show poise and Chris Gradone to stabilize a shaky punting situation.

FINAL ANALYSIS The good vibes accompanying Northwestern for much of Fitzgerald's tenure vanished after the program's first bowl-less season since 2007, but Northwestern returns a roster strong enough to return to the postseason and play spoiler in a wide-open Big Ten West. The offense finally has a quarterback and an identity, but questions remain up front. The defense is still reliant on takeaways but boasts good depth throughout the unit.

Northwestern plays Notre Dame, Northern Illinois and Cal in non-league play but misses both Ohio State and Michigan State in the Big Ten. The Wildcats should return to the postseason in 2014.

VENRIC MARK

THE QUOTE

"My guess is (Venric Mark) is a tremendous leader and a lot of kids follow him in a good way. Getting him back is a huge thing for them."

— An opposing Big Ten assistant coach

OFFENSE (9)

WR	**6**	**Tony Jones (Sr.)**	21	Kyle Prater (Sr.)
WR	**14**	**Christian Jones (Sr.)**	89	Miles Shuler (Jr.)
WR	19	Cam Dickerson (Jr.)	83	Mike McHugh (So.)
LT	**78**	**Paul Jorgensen (Sr.)**	**75**	**Jack Konopka (Sr.)**
LG	**53**	**Geoff Mogus (Jr.)**	**63**	**Ian Park (So.)**
C	**66**	**Brandon Vitabile (Sr.)**	65	Hayden Baker (Sr.)
RG	57	Matt Frazier (Jr.)	73	Adam DePietro (So.)
RT	76	Eric Olson (So.)	70	Shane Mertz (Jr.)
SB	**40**	**Dan Vitale (Jr.)**	88	Jayme Taylor (Fr.)
QB	13	Trevor Siemian (Sr.)	10	Zack Oliver (Jr.)
RB	5	Venric Mark (Sr.)	**22**	**Treyvon Green (Sr.)**

DEFENSE (7)

DE	**94**	**Dean Lowry (Jr.)**	96	Max Chapman (Jr.)
DT	91	Sean McEvilly (Sr.)	93	Greg Kuhar (So.)
DT	**99**	**Chance Carter (Sr.)**	90	C.J. Robbins (Jr.)
DE	13	Deonte Gibson (Jr.)	7	Ifeadi Odenigbo (So.)
LB	**44**	**Chi Chi Ariguzo (Sr.)**	42	Joseph Jones (So.)
LB	**45**	**Collin Ellis (Sr.)**	51	Jaylen Prater (So.)
LB	55	Drew Smith (Jr.)	9	Jimmy Hall (Sr.)
CB	**23**	**Nick VanHoose (Jr.)**	2	Dwight White (So.)
CB	27	Matthew Harris (So.)	3	Keith Watkins II (Fr.)
S	**24**	**Ibraheim Campbell (Sr.)**	21	Kyle Queiro (Fr.)
S	**10**	**Traveon Henry (Jr.)**	16	Godwin Igwebuike (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	38	Arthur Omilian (Jr.)	**KR**	5	Venric Mark (Sr.)
P	31	Chris Gradone (Jr.)	**PR**	5	Venric Mark (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Trevor Siemian, 298-178-2,149-9, 11 TDs
Rushing: Treyvon Green, 137 att., 736 yds., 8 TDs
Receiving: Tony Jones, 55 rec., 630 yds., 4 TDs
Tackles: Chi Chi Ariguzo, 106
Sacks: Ifeadi Odenigbo, 5.5
Interceptions: Chi Chi Ariguzo, 4; Ibraheim Campbell, 4

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Athlon Sports

PURDUE BOILERMAKERS

NATIONAL FORECAST **80**
BIG TEN WEST PREDICTION **7**

Head Coach: Darrell Hazell
Record at School: 1-11 (1 year)
Career Record: 17-21 (3 years)
Offensive Coordinator: John Shoop
Defensive Coordinator: Greg Hudson
West Lafayette, IN
Ross-Ade Stadium (62,500)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 3-9, 0-8 (BIG TEN)

August	
30	Western Michigan
September	
6	Central Michigan
13	vs. Notre Dame #
20	Southern Illinois
27	Iowa
October	
4	at Illinois
11	Michigan State
18	at Minnesota
November	
1	at Nebraska
8	Wisconsin
22	Northwestern
29	at Indiana

#Indianapolis, IN

2013 RESULTS (1-11, 0-8)

Aug. 31	at Cincinnati	L	7-42
Sept. 7	Indiana State	W	20-14
Sept. 14	Notre Dame	L	24-31
Sept. 21	at Wisconsin	L	10-41
Sept. 28	Northern Illinois	L	24-55
Oct. 12	Nebraska	L	7-44
Oct. 19	at Michigan State	L	0-14
Nov. 2	Ohio State	L	0-56
Nov. 9	Iowa	L	14-38
Nov. 16	at Penn State	L	21-45
Nov. 23	Illinois	L	16-20
Nov. 30	at Indiana	L	36-56

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. David Hedelin, OT, Stockholm, SWE*
2. David Blough, QB, Carrollton, TX
3. Gelen Robinson, LB, Saint John, IN
4. Tim Cason, CB, Clarkston, MI
5. Ja'Whaun Bentley, LB, Hyattsville, MD
6. Cedric Dale, DB, Carrollton, TX
7. Martesse Patterson, OL, Columbus, OH
8. Juan Jenkins, S, Gainesville, FL
9. Corey Clements, OT, Birmingham, AL
10. Will Colmery, DE, La Grange, IL

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big Ten	National
Scoring	14.9 ppg	12	119
Rushing	67.1 ypg	12	122
Passing	215.8 ypg	6	77
Total	282.9 ypg	12	119
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
Scoring	38.0 ppg	11	111
Rushing	235.4 ypg	10	114
Passing	224.5 ypg	6	55
Total	459.9 ypg	10	104
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
-3	-0.3	9	79

OFFENSE As goes Danny Etling, so goes Purdue. That's not much of an overstatement. Etling took over as the starting quarterback midway through last season as a true freshman, and coach Darrell Hazell and his staff know his improvement likely will mirror the Boilermakers' improvement as well. Austin Appleby is a good backup, but Etling is the man.

Raheem Mostert won the 60- and 200-meter titles at the Big Ten indoor track meet, and the coaches hope he can provide a much-needed big-play threat. Incumbent running back Akeem Hunt will also see time at slot receiver. The coaches are looking to get him and Mostert on the field at the same time. The Boilermakers averaged 6.1 yards per passing attempt, worst in the Big Ten, and had no one who could stretch the field most of the season. DeAngelo Yancey came on as his freshman season progressed. He provide Etling with an inviting target the next three years.

Center Robert Kugler is solid, but the rest of the offensive line is a concern. Some incoming junior college transfers need to contribute in a major way. No one expects this line to blow away the opposition, but Purdue has to do better than 67.1 yards rushing per game — its average last season.

DEFENSE Purdue has a tradition of strong defensive ends, and Ryan Russell may be the guy to continue it. Hazell says he challenged Russell after a mildly disappointing junior year and was pleased with the way he responded during spring practice. Sophomore Jake Replogle is a likely starter at the other end spot, but Kentucky transfer Langston Newton also is in the mix.

STAT CORNER

5.7

Average yards to go for Purdue opponents on third down, lowest in the country. You can't win if your D can't get off the field.

The improved defensive line should lead to a better defense overall, but questions still abound. Seniors Sean Robinson and Joe Gilliam provide experience at linebacker, but youth might also be served. Gelen Robinson, the son of Purdue basketball legend Glenn Robinson, one of the top recruits in the incoming freshman class. It would not be a surprise to see him crack the starting lineup at some point in the season.

Reliable Frankie Williams returns at one corner and Taylor Richards returns at one safety spot. Fellow safety Landon Feichter was Purdue's defensive MVP in 2012, but had an injury-plagued 2013. His return to form would be a nice boost.

SPECIALISTS It's generally not a good sign if a team's best player is its punter, but that is what Purdue had last year in Cody Webster, a first-team All-Big Ten performer and a finalist for the Ray Guy Award. Thomas Meadows is his likely replacement. Returning kicker Paul Griggs showed a strong leg at times, but not much consistency, going only 6-for-12 on field-goal attempts. Meadows may get a shot there as well. The return game should be a strength. Mostert and Hunt each returned kickoffs for touchdowns last year. Purdue returned only nine punts last fall, a testament to how much it struggled. Williams was effective in limited opportunities, averaging 16.8 yards on five returns.

FINAL ANALYSIS Most Purdue fans realized Hazell was inheriting a rebuilding situation, but last season still ended up being a nightmare. The lone victory was over FCS foe Indiana State, and the season ended with the Boilermakers getting thumped by archrival Indiana.

The non-conference schedule is more forgiving this year, and Purdue gets a break in conference play. It doesn't play Michigan or Ohio State. Wisconsin and defending Big Ten champion Michigan State visit Ross-Ade Stadium. Still, it's hard to envision this team making a move in the Big Ten in 2014. The talent level simply isn't good enough at this point.

AKEEM HUNT

Brian Ebner

THE QUOTE

"When we played against them they hadn't lost their sails yet. They had a tough go, but I have a lot of respect for (Darrell Hazell)."

— An opposing Big Ten assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	80	DeAngelo Yancey (So.)	**87**	**Shane Mikesky (Jr.)**
WR	33	Danny Anthrop (Jr.)	**83**	**B.J. Knauf (So.)**
WR	9	Dan Monteroso (So.)	18	Cameron Posey (So.)
LT	54	Jack De Boef (Sr.)		Corey Clements
LG	72	Jason King (So.)	65	Charlie Long (Fr.)
C	**57**	**Robert Kugler (Jr.)**	53	Kirk Barron (Fr.)
RG	70	Jordan Roos (So.)	66	Cameron Cermin (So.)
RT	73	J.J. Prince (So.)	76	Jason Tretter (Fr.)
TE	**84**	**Justin Sinz (Sr.)**	86	Gabe Holmes (Sr.)
QB	**5**	**Danny Etling (So.)**	12	Austin Appleby (So.)
RB	8	Raheem Mostert (Sr.)	**1**	**Akeem Hunt (Sr.)**

DEFENSE (6)

DE	54	Jake Replogle (So.)	97	Michael Rouse III (Jr.)
NG	93	Ra'Zahn Howard (So.)	92	Ryan Watson (Jr.)
DE	**90**	**Ryan Russell (Sr.)**	95	Evan Panfil (So.(
JACK	89	Jalani Phillips (Sr.)		Langston Newton (So.)
SLB	29	Jimmy Herman (So.)		Gelen Robinson (Fr.)
MLB	**10**	**Sean Robinson (Sr.)**	32	Evan Pulliam (So.)
WLB	**39**	**Joe Gilliam (Sr.)**	36	Danny Ezechukwu (Fr.)
CB	**24**	**Frankie Williams (Jr.)**	26	Antoine Lewis (Sr.)
CB	**9**	**Anthony Brown (Jr.)**	3	Leroy Clark (So.)
S	**4**	**Taylor Richards (Sr.)**	5	Austin Logan (So.)
S	44	Landon Feichter (Sr.)	7	Robert Gregory (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	37	Paul Griggs (Jr.)	KR	8	Raheem Mostert (Sr.)
P	30	Thomas Meadows (Jr.)	PR	24	Frankie Williams (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Danny Etling, 267-149-1,690-7, 10 TDs
Rushing: Akeem Hunt, 123 att., 464 yds., 1 TD
Receiving: Justin Sinz, 41 rec., 340 yds., 4 TDs
Tackles: Anthony Brown, 69
Sacks: 3 players tied with 2
Interceptions: Frankie Williams, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

WISCONSIN BADGERS

NATIONAL FORECAST 15
BIG TEN WEST PREDICTION 1

Head Coach: Gary Andersen
Record at School: 9-4 (1 year)
Career Record: 39-35 (5 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Andy Ludwig
Defensive Coordinator: Dave Aranda
Madison, WI
Camp Randall Stadium (80,321)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 10-3, 7-2 (BIG TEN)

August	
30	vs. LSU #
September	
6	Western Illinois
20	Bowling Green
27	South Florida
October	
4	at Northwestern
11	Illinois
25	Maryland
November	
1	at Rutgers
8	at Purdue
15	Nebraska
22	at Iowa
29	Minnesota

#Houston, TX

2013 RESULTS (9-4, 6-2)

Aug. 31	Massachusetts	W	45–0
Sept. 7	Tennessee Tech	W	48–0
Sept. 14	at Arizona State	L	30–32
Sept. 21	Purdue	W	41–10
Sept. 28	at Ohio State	L	24–31
Oct. 12	Northwestern	W	35–6
Oct. 19	at Illinois	W	56–32
Nov. 2	at Iowa	W	28–9
Nov. 9	BYU	W	27–17
Nov. 16	Indiana	W	51–3
Nov. 23	at Minnesota	W	20–7
Nov. 30	Penn State	L	24–31
Jan. 1	vs. South Carolina #	L	24–34

#Capital One Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Jaden Gault, OL, Cottage Grove, WI
2. Dareian Watkins, WR, Galion, OH
3. D.J. Gillins, QB, Jacksonville, FL
4. Conor Sheehy, DL, Milwaukee, WI
5. George Panos, OL, Hartland, WI
6. Taiwan Deal, RB, Capitol Heights, MD
7. Krenwick Sanders, WR, Jesup, GA
8. Billy Hirschfeld, DL, Okauchee, WI
9. Jeremy Patterson, DL, Screven, GA
10. Michael Deiter, OL, Curtice, OH

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big Ten	National
Scoring	34.8 ppg	3	27
Rushing	283.8 ypg	2	8
Passing	197.1 ypg	9	93
Total	480.8 ypg	3	18
Defense	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
Scoring	16.3 ppg	2	6
Rushing	102.5 ypg	2	5
Passing	202.5 ypg	3	17
Total	305.1 ypg	3	7
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Big Ten**	**National**
+1	+0.1	6	56

OFFENSE Tanner McEvoy still gets questions about a contingency plan if he isn't the Wisconsin starting quarterback. Blame that on the junior playing so well at safety last season after getting thrown into the position after the season started. Make no mistake, it's quarterback or bust for McEvoy, who will compete for the starting job in camp with junior Joel Stave, the returning starter. Stave is 13–6 as a starter, but a costly decision not to slide on a scramble in the Capital One Bowl led to an AC joint injury in his throwing shoulder. That limited him in the spring, opening the door for McEvoy.

Second-year coach Gary Andersen prefers dual-threat quarterbacks, and McEvoy brings the read option to an already potent running game. Melvin Gordon and James White combined to rush for 3,053 yards last season, the most ever at the FBS level by two teammates. White is gone — and many fans believe Gordon should have left, too. Gordon was eligible for the draft as a third-year sophomore and likely would have been the first back taken.

Gordon has averaged 8.1 yards per carry in his career, yet has never been the featured back and has carried the ball more than 20 times in only two games. Sophomore Corey Clement averaged 8.2 yards on 67 carries in his first season and will share the load.

The offensive line is as big and nasty as ever. Five players have started five or more games, led by senior right tackle Rob Havenstein (6'8", 327 pounds), who has 28 career starts.

The question on offense is the passing game. The 336 passes Stave attempted in 2013 were the most in school history, and his 2,494 passing yards ranked fifth. He also threw too many interceptions (13) and frequently missed open receivers.

The three players who caught the most passes last season all departed. At least two of the five receivers signed in February must contribute immediately.

STAT CORNER

7.7

Average yards per play on first down by the Wisconsin offense, most in the country.

DEFENSE Get used to seeing undersized, explosive athletes on defense, because the Badgers have put a premium on speed. They have sacrificed size, but the goal is to get more big plays — turnovers, sacks and tackles for a loss.

The defensive front seven is completely new, led by senior nose guard Warren Herring, who will also play end to bolster the pass rush. Redshirt freshman Alec James was involved in one of several position changes, going from outside linebacker to defensive end. James will also help pressure the quarterback, along with outside linebacker Vince Biegel.

Replacing All-America linebacker Chris Borland is a concern. Derek Landisch is a leader and playmaker, but Marcus Trotter doesn't run well and must prove he can play against spread opponents.

The secondary was a big issue last season, but three starters return in cornerbacks Sojourn Shelton and Darius Hillary and safety Michael Caputo.

SPECIALISTS Incoming freshman Rafael Gaglianone was signed to address a shaky field-goal situation. He will have to beat out incumbent Jack Russell. Kenzel Doe, who tied for the Big Ten lead in kickoff returns (26.5 average) last season and had a 91-yard kickoff return for a TD in the bowl game, will be the No. 1 returner.

FINAL ANALYSIS Losses in the final two games against Penn State and South Carolina spoiled what could have been a special first season for Andersen. A large senior class departed, but there is enough talent to contend for the Big Ten West title if a quarterback emerges. Opening the season against LSU in Houston ramped up the urgency in spring, but the schedule is favorable after that — the Badgers host Nebraska and do not play the projected top four teams from the Big Ten East.

MELVIN GORDON

Tom Lynn

THE QUOTE

"We tried to use speed against them, because they know how to stop the interior run game. You have to get the ball on the perimeter."

— An opposing Big Ten assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	9	Jordan Fredrick (Jr.)	16	Reggie Love (So.)
WR	86	Alex Erickson (So.)	3	Kenzel Doe (Sr.)
LT	**61**	**Tyler Marz (Jr.)**	68	Jaden Gault (Fr.)
LG	73	Dallas Lewallen (Sr.)	71	Ray Ball (Jr.)
C	**70**	**Dan Voltz (So.)**	63	Michael Deiter (Fr.)
RG	**54**	**Kyle Costigan (Sr.)**		George Panos (Fr.)
RT	**78**	**Rob Havenstein (Sr.)**	62	Walker Williams (So.)
TE	49	Sam Arneson (Sr.)	41	Troy Fumagalli (Fr.)
QB	**2**	**Joel Stave (Jr.)**	5	Tanner McEvoy (Jr.)
FB	34	Derek Watt (Jr.)	26	Derek Straus (Jr.)
RB	25	Melvin Gordon (Jr.)	6	Corey Clement (So.)

DEFENSE (3)

DE	34	Chikwe Obasih (Fr.)	91	Konrad Zagzebski (Sr.)
NG	45	Warren Herring (Sr.)	77	Bryce Gilbert (Sr.)
DE	6	Alec James (Fr.)	93	Jake Keefer (Jr.)
OLB	58	Joe Schobert (Jr.)	41	Jesse Hayes (Jr.)
ILB	30	Derek Landisch (Sr.)	32	Leon Jacobs (So.)
ILB	59	Marcus Trotter (Sr.)	43	Michael Trotter (Sr.)
OLB	47	Vince Biegel (So.)	50	Josh Harrison (Sr.)
CB	**8**	**Sojourn Shelton (So.)**	10	Devin Gaulden (Jr.)
CB	**5**	**Darius Hillary (Jr.)**	29	Terrance Floyd (Jr.)
SS	21	Peniel Jean (Sr.)	14	Nate Hammon (So.)
FS	**7**	**Michael Caputo (Jr.)**	19	Leo Musso (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	97	Jack Russell (Jr.)	KR	3	Kenzel Doe (Sr.)
P	90	Drew Meyer (Jr.)	PR	3	Kenzel Doe (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Joel Stave, 336-208-2,494-13, 22 TDs
Rushing: Melvin Gordon, 206 att., 1,609 yds., 12 TDs
Receiving: Jordan Fredrick, 10 rec., 106 yds., 0 TDs
Tackles: Michael Caputo, 63
Sacks: Warren Herring, 4
Interceptions: Sojourn Shelton, 4

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

C-USA CONFERENCE USA PREVIEW

RAKEEM CATO, MARSHALL

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

EAST

1. MARSHALL **THUNDERING HERD** 13-0, 8-0 C-USA
2. MIDDLE TENNESSEE **BLUE RAIDERS** 7-5, 6-2 C-USA
3. FLORIDA ATLANTIC **OWLS** 6-6, 5-3 C-USA
4. WESTERN KENTUCKY **HILLTOPPERS** 5-7, 4-4 C-USA
5. UAB **BLAZERS** 4-8, 2-6 C-USA
6. OLD DOMINION **MONARCHS** 4-8, 2-6 C-USA
7. FIU **PANTHERS** 2-10, 0-8 C-USA

WEST

1. NORTH TEXAS **MEAN GREEN** 7-6, 6-2 C-USA
2. RICE **OWLS** 7-5, 6-2 C-USA
3. UTSA **ROADRUNNERS** 7-5, 6-2 C-USA
4. LOUISIANA TECH **BULLDOGS** 4-8, 3-5 C-USA
5. SOUTHERN MISS **GOLDEN EAGLES** 4-8, 2-6 C-USA
6. UTEP **MINERS** 3-9, 2-6 C-USA

C-USA CHAMPIONSHIP GAME: MARSHALL OVER NORTH TEXAS

2014 UNIT RANKINGS

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
FLORIDA ATLANTIC	3	11	3	7	2	7	1
FIU	13	12	13	11	11	12	11
LOUISIANA TECH	11	2	12	12	5	9	6
MARSHALL	1	8	1	3	3	2	4
MIDDLE TENNESSEE	8	1	8	8	6	1	7
NORTH TEXAS	9	4	10	1	8	5	2
OLD DOMINION	2	10	4	9	13	13	13
RICE	5	7	5	4	4	3	5
SOUTHERN MISS	7	13	9	13	9	6	8
UAB	12	5	6	6	10	8	10
UTEP	4	3	11	10	12	10	12
UTSA	10	9	2	2	1	4	3
WESTERN KENTUCKY	6	6	7	5	7	11	9

Cato: AP Photo/The Herald-Dispatch, Mark Webb; Taylor: AP Photo/Pat Sullivan

2013 C-USA STANDINGS

EAST	C-USA	OVERALL	WEST	C-USA	OVERALL
MARSHALL	7-1	10-4	RICE	7-1	10-4
EAST CAROLINA	6-2	10-3	UTSA	6-2	7-5
MIDDLE TENNESSEE	6-2	8-5	NORTH TEXAS	6-2	9-4
FLORIDA ATLANTIC	4-4	6-6	TULANE	5-3	7-6
UAB	1-7	2-10	LOUISIANA TECH	3-5	4-8
FIU	1-7	1-11	TULSA	2-6	3-9
SOUTHERN MISS	1-7	1-11	UTEP	1-7	2-10

JORDAN TAYLOR, RICE

2014 C-USA BOWL PROJECTIONS

CHICK-FIL-A PEACH BOWL Marshall vs. Georgia
NEW MEXICO BOWL North Texas vs. San Diego State
HAWAII BOWL Rice vs. Colorado State
HEART OF DALLAS BOWL UTSA vs. Maryland
BAHAMAS BOWL Middle Tennessee vs. Ohio
BOCA RATON BOWL Florida Atlantic vs. Northern Illinois

2013 C-USA BOWL RESULTS

NEW ORLEANS BOWL UL Lafayette 24, Tulane 21
BEEF 'O' BRADY'S BOWL East Carolina 37, Ohio 20
MILITARY BOWL Marshall 31, Maryland 20
LIBERTY BOWL Mississippi State 44, Rice 7
HEART OF DALLAS BOWL North Texas 36, UNLV 14

RECRUITING BY SCHOOL

1. Marshall 2. Old Dominion 3. Louisiana Tech 4. Southern Miss 5. Middle Tennessee 6. Western Kentucky 7. Rice 8. FAU 9. North Texas 10. FIU 11. UAB 12. UTEP 13. UTSA

PRESEASON ALL-C-USA TEAM

FIRST-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	RAKEEM CATO	6-0	181	Sr.	Marshall
RB	KENNETH DIXON	5-10	212	Jr.	Louisiana Tech
RB	JORDAN HOWARD	6-1	228	So.	UAB
WR	TOMMY SHULER	5-7	188	Sr.	Marshall
WR	JORDAN TAYLOR	6-5	210	Sr.	Rice
TE	JONNU SMITH	6-2	225	So.	FIU
C	CHRIS JASPERSE	6-4	287	Sr.	Marshall
G	SCOTT INSKEEP	6-4	300	Sr.	UTSA
G	CYRIL LEMON	6-3	304	Sr.	North Texas
T	CAMERON CLEMMONS	6-6	305	Sr.	Western Kentucky
T	CODY HARRIS	6-5	300	Sr.	UTSA

FIRST-TEAM DEFENSE

DE	HOUSTON BATES	6-3	250	Sr.	Louisiana Tech
DE	ROBERT SINGLETARY	6-2	250	Sr.	UTSA
DT	CHRISTIAN COVINGTON	6-3	295	Jr.	Rice
DT	JAMES ROUSE	6-5	270	Sr.	Marshall
LB	DEREK AKUNNE	6-0	244	Sr.	North Texas
LB	T.T. BARBER	6-1	221	Jr.	Middle Tennessee
LB	JERMAINE HOLMES	5-11	246	Sr.	Marshall
CB	D'JOUN SMITH	5-11	175	Sr.	Florida Atlantic
CB	CAM THOMAS	6-1	190	Sr.	Western Kentucky
S	KEVIN BYARD	5-11	221	Jr.	Middle Tennessee
S	TRISTON WADE	5-11	165	Sr.	UTSA

FIRST-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	TY LONG	6-2	205	Sr.	UAB
P	SEAN KELLY	5-10	186	Jr.	Florida Atlantic
KR	AUTREY GOLDEN	5-11	180	Jr.	UTEP
PR	DEANDRE REAVES	5-10	173	Jr.	Marshall

SECOND-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	TAYLOR HEINICKE	6-1	210	Sr.	Old Dominion
RB	AARON JONES	5-10	185	So.	UTEP
RB	JORDAN PARKER	6-1	220	Jr.	Middle Tennessee
WR	WILLIAM DUKES	6-4	190	Sr.	Florida Atlantic
WR	JAMARCUS NELSON	5-11	160	Sr.	UAB
TE	ERIC TOMLINSON	6-7	265	Sr.	UTEP
C	NATE LEONARD	6-0	280	Sr.	UTSA
G	NICO CARLSON	6-3	285	Sr.	Rice
G	MASON Y'BARBO	6-2	307	Sr.	North Texas
T	DARIUS JOHNSON	6-3	287	Jr.	Middle Tennessee
T	CALEB WILLIAMS	6-3	285	Jr.	Rice

SECOND-TEAM DEFENSE

DE	RA'SHAWDE MYERS	6-4	246	Sr.	Marshall
DE	DIAHEEM WATKINS	6-4	258	Sr.	UAB
DT	BRANDIN BRYANT	6-2	260	Jr.	Florida Atlantic
DT	ASHAAD MABRY	6-3	315	Sr.	UTSA
LB	ALAN HOWZE	6-3	227	Sr.	Southern Miss
LB	ANDRAE KIRK	6-2	225	Sr.	Florida Atlantic
LB	EVAN MCKELVEY	6-1	211	Sr.	Marshall
CB	BRYCE CALLAHAN	5-10	180	Sr.	Rice
CB	BENNETT OKOTCHA	6-0	195	Jr.	UTSA
S	LAIRAMIE LEE	5-10	195	Sr.	North Texas
S	DAMIAN PARMS	6-2	195	Sr.	Florida Atlantic

SECOND-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	KYLE FISCHER	5-11	211	So.	Louisiana Tech
P	HUNTER MULLINS	6-3	195	Sr.	UAB
KR	DEANDRE REAVES	5-10	173	Jr.	Marshall
PR	BRYCE CALLAHAN	5-10	180	Sr.	Rice

FLORIDA ATLANTIC OWLS

NATIONAL FORECAST **91**
C-USA EAST PREDICTION **3**

Head Coach: Charlie Partridge
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: First Season
Offensive Coordinator: Brian Wright
Defensive Coordinator: Roc Bellantoni
Boca Raton, FL
FAU Stadium (29,419)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 6-6, 5-3 (C-USA)

August	
30	at Nebraska
September	
6	at Alabama
13	Tulsa
20	at Wyoming
27	UTSA
October	
2	at FIU
18	Western Kentucky
25	at Marshall
November	
1	UAB
8	at North Texas
22	at Middle Tennessee
29	Old Dominion

2013 RESULTS (6-6, 4-4)

Aug. 30	at Miami	L	6-34
Sept. 5	at East Carolina	L	13-38
Sept. 14	at South Florida	W	28-10
Sept. 21	Middle Tennessee (ot)	L	35-42
Sept. 28	at Rice	L	14-18
Oct. 5	at UAB	W	37-23
Oct. 12	Marshall	L	23-24
Oct. 26	at Auburn	L	10-45
Nov. 2	Tulane	W	34-17
Nov. 16	at Southern Miss	W	41-7
Nov. 23	New Mexico State	W	55-10
Nov. 29	FIU	W	21-6

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Trey Rodriguez, RB, Daytona Beach, FL
2. MarQuese Dudley-Gordon, S, Weston, FL
3. Kris Harris, LB, Tallahassee, FL
4. Landon Scheer, K, Orlando, FL
5. Reggie Bain, T, Miami, FL
6. Buddy Howell, RB, Coral Gables, FL
7. Jason Driskel, QB, Oviedo, FL
8. Nick Richardson, LB/DE, Carol City, FL
9. Andrew Soroh, DB, Miami, FL
10. Henry Bussey, WR, Opa Locka, FL

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	C-USA	National
Scoring	26.4 ppg	6	78
Rushing	182.9 ypg	5	47
Passing	198.3 ypg	8	91
Total	381.3 ypg	7	82
Defense	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
Scoring	22.3 ppg	3	26
Rushing	164.4 ypg	6	65
Passing	161.5 ypg	1	2
Total	325.9 ypg	1	11
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
-3	-0.3	7	79

OFFENSE Offensive coordinator Brian Wright took over as FAU's head coach with four games remaining last season and led the team to four wins and bowl eligibility for the first time since 2008. Wright was passed over for the permanent head coaching job but remained at FAU and will be the Owls' offensive coordinator for a third year. The continuity should be evident in 2014.

FAU returns two quarterbacks who saw action last year and will battle for the starting job deep into — or perhaps through — preseason camp. Junior incumbent Jaquez Johnson is the reigning Conference USA Newcomer of the Year after accounting for 22 touchdowns (12 passing, 10 rushing). Sophomore Greg Hankerson, who played in eight games last year, starting one, had a stellar spring camp to re-ignite the battle.

Both quarterbacks will have the luxury of throwing to senior wideout William Dukes, who — despite double- and triple-teams — caught six touchdowns and averaged 15.8 yards per catch last season.

Sophomore Jay Warren, who became the starter at the end of the 2013, will be the Owls' feature back in 2014. He rushed for 340 yards and averaged 4.8 yards per carry last season.

FAU enters the season needing to replace its starting left tackle and center. Instead of flipping to the left side, right tackle Braden Lyons will be at center in 2014. Vinny Davino and true freshman Reggie Bain (who had a stellar spring) will compete for the starting left tackle spot.

STAT CORNER

5.1

Average gain for FAU's opponents on first down, 20th-lowest in the country. Turmoil off the field masked improvement on it.

DEFENSE FAU returns four of its five best defensive players in cornerback D'Joun Smith, strong safety Damian Parms, defensive tackle Brandin Bryant and middle linebacker Andrae Kirk. Despite a new defensive coordinator in Roc Bellantoni, no radical changes are expected to be made to a unit that finished 11th nationally in total defense (325.9 ypg).

Bryant had 9.5 tackles for a loss in 2013 but tore his ACL in the final game of the year. His return, along with that of defensive tackle Trevon Coley, who has started every game of his two-year career, should help FAU control the run game in 2014.

With Smith leading the way (seven INTs, 13 breakups in 2013), FAU should have Conference USA's best secondary. Injury forced Christian Milstead to play corner last season, but he'll be moving to free safety for his senior season. Add in the do-it-all Parms as the linchpin, and it's going to be difficult to pass on FAU in 2014.

Linebacker could be a concern. Kirk returns a team-leading 84 tackles, but he'll be flanked by inexperience. Junior Freedom Whitfield and sophomore Robert Relf are the favorites to start at outside linebacker, though FAU has experimented with Parms as a 'star' linebacker/safety in a nickel set.

SPECIALISTS FAU signed one of the nation's top kicking prospects, Landon Scheer, in Partridge's first recruiting class. He'll be the Owls' top kicker from the first day he steps on campus in the summer. Sean Kelly was one of the top punters in Conference USA last season. The Owls will likely go with a returner-by-committee system with Cre'von LeBlanc, Smith, Lucky Whitehead and DJ Juste splitting time on both punt and kick returns.

FINAL ANALYSIS If the offensive line can find cohesion, FAU has the weapons to put up a lot of points in 2014. The defense lacks depth but boasts an outstanding secondary and a defensive tackle rotation that should limit big gains by opponents via the ground game. FAU should make a bowl for the first time in six years and could gain some national notoriety with an upset in Week 1 at Nebraska. But the season will be defined in back-to-back weeks in October, when FAU hosts Western Kentucky and then travels to C-USA favorite Marshall.

JAQUEZ JOHNSON

THE QUOTE

"Defensively, they were as good as anybody in our league schematically and personnel-wise. The offensive line was solid, not great."

— An opposing C-USA assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	**19**	**William Dukes (Sr.)**	89	Derek Moise (Jr.)
WR	1	Lucky Whitehead (Sr.)	3	DJ Juste (So.)
WR	88	Jenson Stoshak (Jr.)	85	Marcus Cunningham (Sr.)
LT	58	Reggie Bain (Fr.)	65	Vinny Davino (Jr.)
LG	53	Jakobi Smith (Fr.)	**66**	**Dillon DeBoer (So.)**
C	**75**	**Braden Lyons (Sr.)**	60	Shane Blair (So.)
RG	73	Mikingson Marsaille (Jr.)	**56**	**Isaac Edwards (So.)**
RT	61	Eric Minemyer (Sr.)	52	Arthur Crouse (So.)
TE	84	Alex DeLeon (Sr.)	41	Michael Harrop (Jr.)
QB	**12**	**Jaquez Johnson (Jr.)**	6	Greg Hankerson (So.)
RB	25	Jay Warren (So.)	24	Tony Moore (Sr.)

DEFENSE (5)

DE	14	Trey Hendrickson (So.)	91	Denzel Whitfield (So.)
DT	**11**	**Trevon Coley (Jr.)**	90	Shalom Ogbonda (So.)
DT	**2**	**Brandin Bryant (Jr.)**	71	Jeremy Faulk (Fr.)
DE	59	Robinson Eugene (Jr.)	98	Haiden Nagel (Fr.)
MLB	**45**	**Andrae Kirk (Sr.)**	50	Nate Ozdemir (Fr.)
OLB	34	Freedom Whitfield (Jr.)	43	Robert Relf (So.)
NB	36	Anthony Hamilton (So.)	34	Freedom Whitfield (Jr.)
CB	**21**	**D'Joun Smith (Sr.)**	6	Reggie Brown (So.)
CB	7	Cre'von LeBlanc (Jr.)	29	Sharrod Neasman (Jr.)
FS	18	Christian Milstead (Sr.)	24	Lester Thomas (So.)
SS	**17**	**Damian Parms (Sr.)**	8	Marc Mauro (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K		Landon Scheer (Fr.)	**KR**	7	Cre'von LeBlanc (Jr.)
P	16	Sean Kelly (Jr.)	**PR**	1	Lucky Whitehead (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Jaquez Johnson, 256-149-1,876-8, 12 TDs
Rushing: Jaquez Johnson, 172 att., 772 yds., 10 TDs
Receiving: William Dukes, 35 rec., 553 yds., 6 TDs
Tackles: Andrae Kirk, 84
Sacks: Brandin Bryant, 6.0
Interceptions: D'Joun Smith, 7

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

J.C. Ridley

FIU PANTHERS

NATIONAL FORECAST **127**
C-USA EAST PREDICTION **7**

Head Coach: Ron Turner
Record at School: 1-11 (1 year)
Career Record: 43-72 (10 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Steve Shankweiler
Defensive Coordinator: Josh Conklin
Miami, FL
FIU Stadium (20,000)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 2-10, 0-8 (C-USA)

August	
30	Bethune-Cookman
September	
6	Wagner
13	Pittsburgh
20	Louisville
27	at UAB
October	
2	Florida Atlantic
11	at UTSA
18	Marshall
November	
1	Rice
8	at Old Dominion
15	Middle Tennessee
22	at North Texas

2013 RESULTS (1-11, 1-7)

Aug. 31	at Maryland	L	10–43
Sept. 6	UCF	L	0–38
Sept. 14	Bethune-Cookman	L	13–34
Sept. 21	at Louisville	L	0–72
Oct. 5	at Southern Miss	W	24–23
Oct. 12	UAB	L	24–27
Oct. 26	Louisiana Tech	L	7–23
Nov. 2	East Carolina	L	13–34
Nov. 9	at Middle Tennessee	L	0–48
Nov. 16	at UTEP	L	10–33
Nov. 23	Marshall	L	10–48
Nov. 29	at Florida Atlantic	L	6–21

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Alex McGough, QB, Tampa, FL
2. Alex Gardner, RB, Jacksonville, FL
3. Bud Martin, QB, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
4. Bobby Stinson, DB, Miami, FL
5. Kai Absheer, OL, Oakland Park, FL
6. Luke Medlock, QB/P, Jacksonville, FL
7. Dennis Turner, WR, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
8. Mark Bruno, DB, Pembroke Pines, FL
9. Shermarke Spence, DB, Miami, FL
10. Chett LeVay, TE, Tampa, FL

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	C-USA	National
Scoring	9.8 ppg	13	122
Rushing	76.3 ypg	12	120
Passing	142.8 ypg	13	116
Total	219.0 ypg	13	123
Defense	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
Scoring	37.0 ppg	10	110
Rushing	205.4 ypg	10	99
Passing	224.3 ypg	8	54
Total	429.7 ypg	10	94
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
-6	-0.5	9	97

OFFENSE Coming off arguably the worst offensive season the Football Bowl Subdivision has seen since 2005, further regression seems impossible for FIU. The team will be based around an offensive line that returns five starters from last season, including left guard Jordan Budwig, a local product who started as a true freshman last season and was the team's best run-blocker.

In all, FIU returns offensive linemen with a combined 69 career starts. The hope of FIU coach Ron Turner and his staff is that experience will help the Panthers improve a rushing offense that averaged 2.1 yards per carry last season (last in the nation, and it wasn't even close) and a passing game that was forced into quick dump passes on nearly every down.

The big question for FIU in 2014 is who will be under center (and that idiom still applies to the pro-style Panthers). Jake Medlock, the Panthers' starting quarterback last year, transferred to D-II Valdosta State for his senior season, leaving the man he beat out last year, E.J. Hilliard, and a promising pair of early enrollee freshmen to battle for the job. Hilliard, a scrambling quarterback from nearby Miami Northwestern, has never looked comfortable in Turner's anti-spread scheme. His competition for the starting job comes from Tampa product Alex McGough. At 6'3" and 210 pounds, McGough is as prototypical of a pocket passer as FIU is going to find, and he stole the show in the Panthers' spring game. He'll be pushed by fellow freshman Bud Martin, who has the best arm strength of the three.

Regardless of which quarterback plays, he'll be handing the ball off to junior running back Lamarq Caldwell, who averaged 3.8 yards per carry last season. For a team based in South Florida, FIU has a surprising dearth of playmakers at wide receiver. Sophomore tight end Jonnu Smith picked up many of those dump passes.

STAT CORNER

-2.4

FIU's per-play yardage margin in conference play — the worst of any team in the nation relative to its league.

DEFENSE FIU didn't exactly pair a strong defense with its anemic offense last year, and the defense could devolve further in 2014.

Finding two defensive tackles who can replace Greg Hickman and Isame Faciane is priority No. 1 in West Miami. The two tackles were the reason FIU's 5.28 yards allowed per opponent rushing attempt wasn't a bigger number and that the FIU pass rush had any numbers at all. With both gone to graduation, the Panthers will give first dibs on their jobs to junior Lars Koht and sophomore Imarjaye Albury.

There's depth at defensive end, with Giovani Francois and Denzell Perine standing out. Wonderful Monds II should provide quality snaps as well. Darrian Dyson can play multiple positions and could be the D-line's X-factor.

The return of cornerback Richard Leonard from academic ineligibility should boost an already solid secondary, which is anchored by free safety and male model (seriously) Justin Halley.

Linebacker is another position of concern. Middle backer Luis Rosado is the group's top returning tackler (35). He'll be flanked by Davison Colimon and Patrick Jean, who combined for 39 tackles.

SPECIALISTS The Panthers are young on special teams. Austin Taylor returns after a decent freshman season in which he made 8-of-12 field goals. True freshman Luke Medlock is likely to win the starting punting job.

FINAL ANALYSIS While the natural progression of players and the return of Leonard at cornerback provide hope that FIU can improve, holes in the defensive front seven and the possibility that a true freshman will start at quarterback extinguish those small bits of positivity. Games against Louisville, Pitt, Marshall and even rival FAU are likely to be embarrassingly lopsided. The Panthers have a better chance of going winless than making a bowl game.

Richard Lewis

JONNU SMITH

THE QUOTE

"Their offense is pretty basic, a pro-style offense. They will huddle and do what Ron Turner did somewhere in the NFL."

— An opposing C-USA assistant coach

OFFENSE (10)

WR	82	Dominique Rhymes (Jr.)	**17**	**T.J. Lowder (Jr.)**
WR	83	Richard Burrows (Sr.)	10	Glenn Coleman (Sr.)
WR	**5**	**Clinton Taylor (Jr.)**		Dennis Turner (Fr.)
LT	**50**	**David Delsoin (Sr.)**	78	Dieugot Joseph (So.)
LG	**66**	**Jordan Budwig (So.)**	71	Delmar Taylor (Sr.)
C	**59**	**Donald Senat (Sr.)**	64	Michael Montero (So.)
RG	**77**	**Jordan White (Sr.)**	58	Byron Pinkston (Sr.)
RT	**70**	**Aaron Nielsen (Jr.)**	75	Edens Sineace (So.)
TE	**87**	**Jonnu Smith (So.)**	**80**	**Ya'Keem Griner (Jr.)**
QB	13	E.J. Hilliard (Jr.)		Alex McGough (Fr.)
RB	**36**	**Lamarq Caldwell (Jr.)**	30	Silas Spearman III (So.)

DEFENSE (5)

DE	9	Giovani Francois (Sr.)	44	Darrian Dyson (Jr.)
DT	74	Lars Koht (Jr.)	94	Marques Cheeks (So.)
DT	90	Imarjaye Albury (So.)	98	Leonard Washington (So.)
DE	**11**	**Denzell Perine (Jr.)**	97	Wonderful Monds II (Jr.)
OLB	13	Patrick Jean (Jr.)	46	De'Shawn Hazziez (So.)
MLB	**48**	**Luis Rosado (Jr.)**	52	Treyvon Williams (So.)
OLB	35	Davison Colimon (Jr.)	55	Michael Wakefield (Jr.)
CB	3	Richard Leonard (Sr.)	31	Jeremiah McKinnon (Jr.)
CB	**21**	**Randy Harvey (Sr.)**	38	Wilkenson Myrtil (So.)
S	**32**	**Justin Halley (Sr.)**	**14**	**Demarkus Perkins (Sr.)**
S	18	Jordan Davis (So.)	47	Sam Gervais (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	54	Austin Taylor (So.)	KR	Dennis Turner (Fr.)
P		Luke Medlock (Fr.)	PR	Dennis Turner (Fr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: E.J. Hilliard, 132-77-775-4, 3 TDs
Rushing: Lamarq Caldwell, 144 att., 504 yds., 1 TD
Receiving: Jonnu Smith, 39 rec., 388 yds., 2 TDs
Tackles: Justin Halley, 53
Sacks: Giovani Francois, 2; Michael Wakefield, 2
Interceptions: Justin Halley, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

MARSHALL THUNDERING HERD

NATIONAL FORECAST **40**
C-USA EAST PREDICTION **1**

Head Coach: Doc Holliday
Record at School: 27-24 (4 years)
Career Record: 27-24 (4 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Bill Legg
Defensive Coordinator: Chuck Heater
Huntington, WV
Joan C. Edwards Stadium (38,227)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 13-0, 8-0 (C-USA)

August	
30	at Miami (Ohio)
September	
6	Rhode Island
13	Ohio
20	at Akron
October	
4	at Old Dominion
11	Middle Tennessee
18	at FIU
25	Florida Atlantic
November	
8	at Southern Miss
15	Rice
22	at UAB
28	Western Kentucky

2013 RESULTS (10-4, 7-1)

Aug. 31	Miami (Ohio)	W	52-14
Sept. 7	Gardner-Webb	W	55-0
Sept. 14	at Ohio	L	31-34
Sept. 21	at Virginia Tech (ot)	L	21-29
Oct. 5	UTSA	W	34-10
Oct. 12	at Florida Atlantic	W	24-23
Oct. 24	at Middle Tennessee	L	49-51
Nov. 2	Southern Miss	W	61-13
Nov. 9	UAB	W	56-14
Nov. 14	at Tulsa	W	45-34
Nov. 23	at FIU	W	48-10
Nov. 29	East Carolina	W	59-28
Dec. 7	at Rice %	L	24-41
Dec. 27	vs. Maryland #	W	31-20

%C-USA Championship #Military Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Kendall Gant, DB, Lakeland, FL
2. A.J. Addison, OL, Ruther Glen, VA
3. Nathaniel Devers, OL, Massillon, OH
4. Quintavious Knight, DB, Ellenwood, GA
5. Demetrius Johnson, DB, Annapolis, MD
6. Emanuel Beal, WR, Powder Springs, GA
7. Keion Davis, RB, Fairburn, GA
8. Cole Garvin, QB, Tyrone, GA
9. Maurice Hall, LB, St. Petersburg, FL
10. Donquell Green, WR, Waynesboro, GA

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	C-USA	National
Scoring	42.1 ppg	1	7
Rushing	205.9 ypg	2	23
Passing	294.4 ypg	2	20
Total	500.4 ypg	1	12
Defense	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
Scoring	22.9 ppg	4	32
Rushing	160.5 ypg	4	57
Passing	208.1 ypg	4	24
Total	368.6 ypg	5	35
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
+3	+0.2	6	46

OFFENSE You can be sure that one team that was opposed to the NCAA's proposed slow-down rule was the Thundering Herd. Over the past two years with quarterback Rakeem Cato at the helm, no team has averaged more plays per game. Marshall's hurry-up offense has produced back-to-back seasons of 500-plus yards of offense per game, and with Cato returning for his senior year, there is a good chance that streak will grow to three years in a row. Cato's 39 touchdown passes in 2013 were third in the nation, and he spent the spring working on his deep balls.

The short-to-intermediate passing attack will be paced by first-team All-C-USA receiver Tommy Shuler, who has a chance to make NCAA history with his third straight 100-catch season. Tight end Eric Frohnapfel will have to replace Gator Hoskins, but showed in the spring he will also be a weapon in the middle of the field. The key to making Marshall's offense even more productive will be the emergence of more consistent outside receivers. Davonte Allen is a special athlete. MU coaches have been waiting for Allen to break out, and he began to dominate late in the spring.

Up front, three starters return, led by first-team All-C-USA Chris Jasperse at center. The offensive line will pave the way for a new starting running back, which could be Kevin Grooms, Steward Butler or Remi Watson. All three should see the ball, with Grooms and Butler providing the home-run threats.

STAT CORNER

4.8

Average gain for Marshall opponents on first down, 13th-lowest in the country. The Thundering Herd were efficient on both sides of the ball.

DEFENSE Marshall made big strides in 2013 on defense. Seven starters will return from a unit that trimmed its points allowed per game from 43.1 in 2012 to 22.9 last season — the biggest improvement in the nation. Sixth-year senior James Rouse returns at defensive tackle after earning first-team All-C-USA honors and will command the attention of opposing interior offensive lines. On the outside, Ra'Shawde Myers (5.5 sacks) is back, and he will be spelled by Miami (Fla.) transfer Ricardo Williams, who impressed in spring ball.

The team's three top tacklers a year ago were all linebackers, which was impressive given how often Marshall played with just two linebackers on the field. All three are back, with Jermaine Holmes and Evan McKelvey slotted to be the two linebackers on the field the most. Neville Hewitt, Stefan Houston and converted safety D.J. Hunter should receive significant time as well.

In the secondary, Darryl Roberts and Corey Tindal will man the corners, with athletic Michael Johnson coming in as a new starter at nickel. At free safety, A.J. Leggett has beat out incumbent starter Taj Letman, while Tiquan Lang returns at strong safety after winning the job halfway through his freshman season.

SPECIALISTS Kicker Justin Haig returns after hitting 11-of-16 field goals with a long of 42 yards. Marshall may look at kickoff specialist Amoreto Curraj for anything beyond 40 yards. Punter Tyler Williams is also back. The Herd were 92nd in net punting a year ago, but Williams did pin Maryland inside its 10-yard line four times in the bowl victory. Deandre Reeves will likely handle both punt and kick return duties.

FINAL ANALYSIS Could Marshall go undefeated? When Louisville had to postpone its 2014 date with the Herd due to an ACC-obligated matchup with Notre Dame, Rhode Island became Marshall's final non-conference opponent. The Herd certainly should be favored each week as long as Cato remains healthy (backup QB is a big concern heading into the fall). The three teams that beat Marshall last year that are on the schedule this year all must visit Huntington, where Marshall has won eight straight. A highly productive offense led by an elite quarterback and solid, veteran defense could lift the Herd to a historic season.

RAKEEM CATO

THE QUOTE

"Not a lot of weaknesses with them. In our league, they'll be as good as any for years to come. Consistency might be the only issue."

— An opposing C-USA assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	6	Davonte Allen (Jr.)	9	Justin Hunt (So.)
WR	**1**	**Tommy Shuler (Sr.)**	19	Deandre Reaves (Jr.)
WR	**81**	**Craig Wilkins (Sr.)**	15	Angelo Jean-Louis (Fr.)
LT	**71**	**Sebastian Johansson (Jr.)**	74	A.J. Addison (Fr.)
LG	52	Blake Brooks (Sr.)	68	Tom Collins (Jr.)
C	**60**	**Chris Jasperse (Sr.)**	66	Cameron Dees (So.)
RG	54	Mike Selby (So.)	64	Trevor Mendelson (Sr.)
RT	**78**	**Clint Van Horn (Jr.)**	67	Sandley Jean-Felix (Fr.)
TE	83	Eric Frohnapfel (Sr.)	47	Devon Johnson (Jr.)
QB	**12**	**Rakeem Cato (Sr.)**	10	Gunnar Holcombe (So.)
RB	37	Kevin Grooms (Jr.)	20	Steward Butler (Jr.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	**40**	**Ra'Shawde Myers (Sr.)**	97	Ricardo Williams (Jr.)
DT	**11**	**James Rouse (Sr.)**	93	Steve Dillon (Jr.)
DT	94	Jarquez Samuel (Jr.)	99	Josh Brown (So.)
DE	59	Gary Thompson (So.)	90	Arnold Blackmon (Sr.)
LB	31	Evan McKelvey (Sr.)	3	Stefan Houston (So.)
LB	46	Jermaine Holmes (Sr.)	**43**	**Neville Hewitt (Sr.)**
CB	**7**	**Darryl Roberts (Sr.)**	32	Michael Johnson (So.)
CB	**10**	**Corey Tindal (So.)**	5	Keith Baxter (Jr.)
NB	32	Michael Johnson (So.)	10	Corey Tindal (So.)
SS	**21**	**Tiquan Lang (So.)**	17	Taj Letman (Jr.)
FS	1	A.J. Leggett (So.)	**17**	**Taj Letman (Jr.)**

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	23	Justin Haig (Sr.)	KR	19	Deandre Reeves (Jr.)
P	38	Tyler Williams (Jr.)	PR	19	Deandre Reeves (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Rakeem Cato, 499-298-3,916-9, 39 TDs
Rushing: Steward Butler, 87 att., 765 yds., 8 TDs
Receiving: Tommy Shuler, 106 rec., 1,165 yds., 10 TDs
Tackles: Evan McKelvey, 97
Sacks: James Rouse, 6
Interceptions: A.J. Leggett, 4

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Marshall SID

MTSU BLUE RAIDERS

NATIONAL FORECAST **90**
C-USA EAST PREDICTION **2**

Head Coach: Rick Stockstill
Record at School: 51-49 (8 years)
Career Record: 51-49 (8 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Buster Faulkner
Co-Defensive Coordinators: Steve Ellis, Tyrone Nix
Murfreesboro, TN
Floyd Stadium (30,788)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 7-5, 6-2 (C-USA)

August	
30	Savannah State
September	
6	at Minnesota
13	WKU
20	at Memphis
27	at Old Dominion
October	
4	Southern Miss
11	at Marshall
18	UAB
November	
1	BYU
15	at FIU
22	Florida Atlantic
29	at UTEP

2013 RESULTS (8-5, 6-2)

Aug. 29	Western Carolina	W	45–24
Sept. 7	at North Carolina	L	20–40
Sept. 14	Memphis	W	17–15
Sept. 21	at Florida Atlantic (ot)	W	42–35
Sept. 27	at BYU	L	10–37
Oct. 5	East Carolina	L	17–24
Oct. 12	at North Texas	L	7–34
Oct. 24	Marshall	W	51–49
Nov. 2	at UAB	W	24–21
Nov. 9	FIU	W	48–0
Nov. 23	at Southern Miss	W	42–21
Nov. 30	UTEP	W	48–17
Dec. 30	vs. Navy #	L	6–24

#Armed Forces Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Patrick Martin, DB, Greenville, SC*
2. J'Vonte Herrod, RB, Kennesaw, GA
3. Darrius Liggins, DE, Oxford, MS
4. Jamarcus Howard, CB, Tuscaloosa, AL*
5. D.J. Sanders, LB, Sandersville, GA
6. Ty Clemons, WR, Powder Springs, GA
7. Richie James, WR, Sarasota, FL
8. Cavellis Luckett, LB, McComb, MS*
9. Jordan Frost-Dixon, DB, Plainfield, NJ
10. Trey Wafford, DB, Fayetteville, GA

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	C-USA	National
Scoring	29.0 ppg	5	68
Rushing	199.3 ypg	3	31
Passing	208.2 ypg	6	85
Total	407.5 ypg	4	66
Defense	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
Scoring	26.2 ppg	7	60
Rushing	199.3 ypg	9	96
Passing	203.4 ypg	3	19
Total	402.7 ypg	7	63
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
+12	+0.9	1	12

OFFENSE A change at quarterback should have far-reaching effects. Pocket passer Logan Kilgore graduated after setting the school record for career TD passes, and a trio of dual-threat quarterbacks will compete for his job. Sophomore Austin Grammer, redshirt freshman AJ Erdely and true freshman Brent Stockstill (son of head coach Rick Stockstill) have staged a tight race, and all three could get their chance in 2014. Regardless of the starter, the offense will go toward a zone-read look with a mobile quarterback and four strong running backs returning to stock the deepest backfield in Conference USA. Downhill runner Jordan Parker and big-play sprinter Reggie Whatley lead the group, which helped MTSU rush for nearly 200 yards per game last season.

"It helps us so much more when the quarterback is a threat to run," Stockstill says. "Anytime you have a quarterback that can buy some time in the passing game and get some first downs in the run game, it opens up so much more for your running backs and receivers."

The receiving corps has traded in the experience and sure hands of last season's seniors for more speed and athleticism. Marcus Henry (38 receptions, 549 yards) is the total package, but newcomers carry high hopes. Junior college transfer Ed'Marques Batties and redshirt freshman Shannon Smith should both make an impact.

Both offensive tackles return, but there are concerns in the rebuilt interior of the line with three new starters at center and guard. For the ground game to equal last year's pace, the middle must be solidified.

STAT CORNER

.640

Middle Tennessee's win percentage over the last two years. The Blue Raiders have rebounded from 2011's 2-10 stumble.

DEFENSE Linebacker T.T. Barber and safety Kevin Byard are among the best at their positions in C-USA. Barber is a playmaker who had three interceptions, three fumble recoveries and three forced fumbles in 2013. Byard is already the NCAA's active career leader in interception return yards after only two seasons, and he has returned four picks for TDs. But the supporting cast carries questions.

Seven starters return for a defense that tied for fifth nationally in takeaways last season, but there are unproven players in both the defensive line and secondary. Defensive co-coordinator Tyrone Nix transformed the Blue Raiders into a turnover-forcing machine last season, but repeating that performance without a proven pass-rusher or shutdown cornerback will be a challenge. Third-down defense must also improve from a ranking of 119th last season.

SPECIALISTS Placekicker Cody Clark lacks a big leg, but he is consistent at reasonable distances. He made 12-of-16 field goals as a freshman last season. Freshman A.J. Wells was signed specifically to take over punting duties in his debut season. Whatley is among the nation's most dangerous kick returners, if he can avoid injuries.

FINAL ANALYSIS Almost always a contender but rarely a champion, MTSU has been bowl-eligible five times in Stockstill's eight seasons but has earned only a share of one conference title. Back-to-back eight-win seasons in two different conferences (Sun Belt, C-USA) provide a good springboard for another bowl bid this year.

With East Carolina out of the league, MTSU likely must beat out Marshall, Florida Atlantic and old Sun Belt rival Western Kentucky for the C-USA East title. Finding a dependable quarterback and duplicating last season's terrific turnover margin will be key if the Blue Raiders want to make a run at a conference title rather than just hang around .500.

"Each year your team changes, but you know we're close," Stockstill says. "We were a game out of winning it in our last year in the Sun Belt. And we were basically a game out from winning it this past year in Conference USA. Marshall will obviously be the favorite, but we're close."

T.T. BARBER

Bradley Lambert MTSU

THE QUOTE

"They do a nice job spreading the field with a really good set of skill guys. Defensively, they were young but have done a nice job."

— An opposing C-USA assistant coach

OFFENSE (3)

WR	81	**Christian Collis (Jr.)**	84	Terry Pettis (So.)
WR	19	Marcus Henry (Sr.)	13	Demetrius Frazier (So.)
WR	86	Devin Clarke (Sr.)	85	Shannon Smith (Fr.)
WR	16	Chris Perkins (Sr.)	80	Ed'Marques Batties (Jr.)
LT	75	**Darius Johnson (Jr.)**	56	Maurquice Shakir (Jr.)
LG	78	Adam Stickel (So.)	72	Jonah Sells (Sr.)
C	66	Daniel Stephens (So.)	63	Josh Chester (So.)
RG	63	Josh Chester (So.)	67	Dalton Ownby (Fr.)
RT	73	**Isaiah Anderson (Sr.)**	54	Jaylen Hunter (Jr.)
QB	2	Austin Grammer (So.)	12	Brent Stockstill (Fr.)
RB	6	Jordan Parker (Jr.)	25	Reggie Whatley (Sr.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	97	Jiajuan Fennell (Sr.)	59	Chris Hale (So.)
DT	92	**Patrick McNeil (Sr.)**	99	Jimal McBride (So.)
DT	43	Raynard Felton (So.)	98	Derious Bennett (So.)
DE	17	**Alexandro Antoine (Jr.)**	55	Shubert Bastien (Sr.)
LB	39	James Roberson (Jr.)	40	Leighton Gasque (Sr.)
LB	28	**Christian Henry (Sr.)**	33	Cavellis Luckett (Jr.)
LB	38	**T.T. Barber (Jr.)**	52	Ykeem Wells (Jr.)
CB	24	**Jared Singletary (Jr.)**	27	Chris Sharpe (Sr.)
CB	7	Khari Burke (Sr.)	37	Shon Akins (Fr.)
FS	42	**Xavier Walker (Jr.)**	48	Patrick Martin (Jr.)
SS	20	**Kevin Byard (Jr.)**	23	Chris Brown (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	89	Cody Clark (So.)	KR	25	Reggie Whatley (Sr.)
P		A.J. Wells (Fr.)	PR	24	Jared Singletary (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Austin Grammer, 46-21-190-2, 1 TD
Rushing: Jordan Parker, 146 att., 745 yds., 6 TDs
Receiving: Marcus Henry, 38 rec., 549 yds., 3 TDs
Tackles: T.T. Barber, 119
Sacks: Leighton Gasque, 5
Interceptions: Kevin Byard, 5

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

OLD DOMINION MONARCHS

NATIONAL FORECAST 116
C-USA EAST PREDICTION 6

Head Coach: Bobby Wilder
Record at School: 46-14 (5 years)
Career Record: 46-14 (5 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Brian Scott
Defensive Coordinator: Kermit Buggs, Rich Nagy
Norfolk, VA
Foreman Field (20,086)

2014 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 4-8, 2-6 (C-USA)

August	
30	Hampton
September	
6	at NC State
13	Eastern Michigan
20	at Rice
26	Middle Tennessee
October	
4	Marshall
11	at UTEP
25	at Western Kentucky
November	
1	at Vanderbilt
8	FIU
22	Louisiana Tech
29	at Florida Atlantic

2013 RESULTS (8-4)

Aug. 31	at East Carolina	L	38–52
Sept. 7	at Maryland	L	10–47
Sept. 14	Howard	W	76–19
Sept. 21	The Citadel	W	59–58
Sept. 28	Albany	W	66–10
Oct. 5	Liberty	W	21–17
Oct. 19	at Pittsburgh	L	24–35
Oct. 26	at Norfolk State	W	27–24
Nov. 2	Rhode Island	W	66–14
Nov. 9	at Idaho	W	59–38
Nov. 16	Campbell	W	42–14
Nov. 23	at North Carolina	L	20–80

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Daniel Appouh, LB, Germantown, MD
2. Jusse Yorke, WR, Ft. Lauderdale, FL*
3. Ray Lawry, RB, Woolwich, NJ
4. Justin Noye, ATH, Rochester, NY
5. Shuler Bentley, QB, Duncan, SC
6. Raul Martinez, OL, Burbank*
7. Vincent Lowe, RB, Chesapeake, VA
8. Christian Byrum, S, Virginia Beach, VA
9. Reece Schmidt, LB, Simi Valley, CA*
10. Martez Simpson, LB, Madison, MS*

*junior college transfer

2013 STATS

Offense	Per Game
Scoring	42.3 ppg
Rushing	159.6 ypg
Passing	359.4 ypg
Total	519.0 ypg
Defense	**Per Game**
Scoring	34.0 ppg
Rushing	196.9 ypg
Passing	255.2 ypg
Total	452.2 ypg
TO Margin	**Per Game**
+5	+0.4

OFFENSE As it moves into its second season in FBS and its first in Conference USA, Old Dominion has the luxury of a proven quarterback in senior Taylor Heinicke. He begins this season with a string of 33 straight starts and the 2012 Walter Payton Award — the FCS equivalent of a Heisman — on his résumé. Monarchs coach Bobby Wilder says Heinicke's decision-making is critical for his young team. Last year, the Atlanta native completed 70.0 percent of his passes for 4,022 yards with 33 touchdowns and only eight interceptions.

He'll have plenty of options in the passing game as Larry Pinkard, Antonio Vaughan, Blair Roberts and Zach Pascal all return after catching 40 or more passes last year. There's also a wave of young talent at receiver behind them that has the Monarchs' staff excited.

The running backs will be young — the more established trio of Gerard Johnson, Cam Boyd and Malik Moseley might have to share time with newcomers. After losing some key contributors on the offensive line, the Monarchs are looking for answers there, too, although coaches believe there's enough raw talent on hand to form a solid group.

Old Dominion as a program is still in the process of adjusting to the FBS level, but the Monarchs' offense — which averaged 42.3 points per game as Heinicke torched opposing defenses — is ready to compete in Conference USA.

STAT CORNER

971.2

Average yards of offense (by both teams) in Old Dominion games in 2014. The Monarchs' games were prolific, for better and worse.

DEFENSE All but two of the Monarchs' defensive starters from the end of the 2013 season are back, but that may not mean much. After the Old Dominion defense gave up 34 points and more than 450 yards per game last season, every spot is up for grabs.

The main culprit for the struggles was inexperience. The Monarchs were painfully young on the defensive line in 2013, starting six first-year players at various points. All of them are back, and the coaches hope they'll be able to build on that experience.

After strong springs, junior college transfers Reece Schmidt and Martez Simpson will provide a boost for the linebacker corps. Andre Simmons should help too after moving down from the safety spot.

The secondary returns two starters, including last season's leading tackler Fellonte Misher.

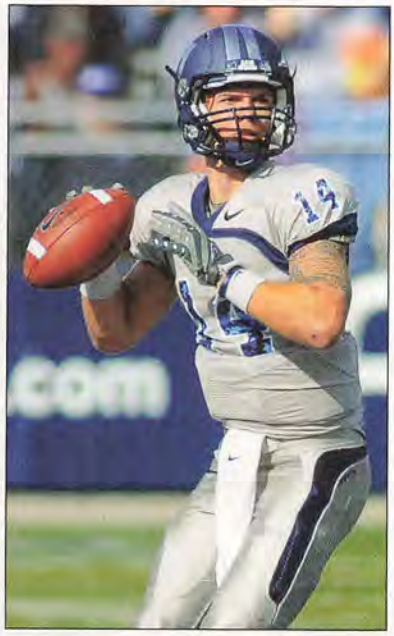
For a unit that had its share of low moments last season, most notably giving up a head-spinning 80 points at North Carolina, improvement is mandatory if the Monarchs plan on making any noise in their new league.

SPECIALISTS Ricky Segers will handle the kicking duties after redshirting last season. Sophomore Joe Pulisic and freshman Jarrett Cervi will likely battle in preseason for the punter job. All of them should benefit from experienced long snapper Rick Lovato. In addition to being key cogs on offense, Pinkard, Vaughan and Moseley will figure prominently in the return game as well.

FINAL ANALYSIS Since the program restarted in 2009, the Monarchs have shown that they can adapt. In their second year in the powerful CAA, they won a league title and reached the quarterfinal round of the FCS playoffs. In their first season as an FBS program, they knocked off Idaho and hung with bowl teams East Carolina and Pittsburgh. In five seasons, all under Wilder, the Monarchs are 46–14.

The challenge will be steeper this season as there's only one FCS school on the schedule as opposed to the seven that the Monarchs played in 2013.

But with Heinicke as the face of the program and last season's young talent maturing, Old Dominion appears to have what it needs to keep that steady upward trajectory in place.



TAYLOR HEINICKE

Rick Voight

THE QUOTE

"They've done a good job getting things together. Their next step is building some depth to be competitive in the league."

— An opposing C-USA assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	6	Zach Pascal (So.)	4	Keshawn Henderson (Fr.)
WR	**5**	**Antonio Vaughan (Sr.)**	2	Kirk Spellman (Jr.)
WR	**9**	**Larry Pinkard (Sr.)**	87	Kevin Privott (Fr.)
WR	**8**	**Blair Roberts (Sr.)**	80	Melvin Vaughn (So.)
LT	**70**	**Tyler Fisher (So.)**	74	Kyle Bottoms (Sr.)
LG	65	Tyler Burns (Jr.)	68	Andrew Maddox (So.)
C	**60**	**Josh Mann (Sr.)**	76	Tyler Compton (So.)
RG	66	Troy Butler (Jr.)	78	Darius Garcia (Fr.)
RT	**71**	**Connor Mewbourne (Jr.)**	69	Ely Anderson (Jr.)
QB	**14**	**Taylor Heinicke (Sr.)**	10	David Washington (So.)
RB	30	Gerard Johnson (So.)	31	Cam Boyd (Sr.)

DEFENSE (6)

LE	**96**	**Terrell Reid (So.)**	56	Preston Smith (Sr.)
NT	**55**	**Chris Smith (Sr.)**	58	Bunmi Rotimi (Fr.)
NT	57	Rashaad Coward (So.)	51	Malik Gumbs (Sr.)
STUD	**91**	**Andrew Everett (Jr.)**	44	Reece Schmidt (Jr.)
MLB	42	D.J. Simon (Sr.)	99	Kaniya Anderson (So.)
OLB	47	T.J. Ricks (So.)	36	Martez Simpson (Jr.)
ROV	**25**	**Andre Simmons (Sr.)**	35	Anthony Wilson (So.)
CB	**23**	**Reggie Owens (Sr.)**	22	Jevon Neal (Sr.)
CB	18	Sandy Chapman (So.)	27	Aaron Young (So.)
FS	20	Rob Thompson (So.)	21	Justin Noye (Fr.)
SS	**24**	**Fellonte Misher (Jr.)**	28	Malique Johnson (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	38	Ricky Segers (So.)	KR	34	Malik Moseley (Fr.)
P	29	Joe Pulisic (So.)	PR	5	Antonio Vaughan (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Taylor Heinicke, 486-340-4,022-8, 33 TDs
Rushing: Cam Boyd, 76 att., 450 yds., 5 TDs
Receiving: Larry Pinkard, 68 rec., 1,020 yds., 9 TDs
Tackles: Fellonte Misher, 95
Sacks: Richie Staton, 4.0
Interceptions: D.J. Simon, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

UAB BLAZERS

NATIONAL FORECAST 109
C-USA EAST PREDICTION 5

Head Coach: Bill Clark
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: 11-4 (1 year)
Offensive Coordinator: Bryant Vincent
Defensive Coordinator: Duwan Walker
Birmingham, AL
Legion Field (72,000)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 4-8, 2-6 (C-USA)

August	
30	Troy
September	
6	at Mississippi State
13	Alabama A&M
27	FIU
October	
4	at Western Kentucky
11	North Texas
18	at Middle Tennessee
25	at Arkansas
November	
1	at Florida Atlantic
8	Louisiana Tech
22	Marshall
29	at Southern Miss

2013 RESULTS (2-10, 1-7)

Aug. 31	at Troy	(ot)	L	31–34
Sept. 7	at LSU		L	17–56
Sept. 21	Northwestern State		W	52–28
Sept. 28	at Vanderbilt		L	24–52
Oct. 5	Florida Atlantic		L	23–37
Oct. 12	at FIU		W	27–24
Oct. 26	at UTSA		L	31–52
Nov. 2	Middle Tennessee		L	21–24
Nov. 9	at Marshall		L	14–56
Nov. 16	at East Carolina		L	14–63
Nov. 21	Rice	(ot)	L	34–37
Nov. 30	Southern Miss		L	27–62

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Justin Brown, OL, Hampton, GA
2. Quincy Perdue, WR, Marietta, GA
3. Deontae Crumitie, OL, Lake City, FL
4. Collin Lisa, WR, Alpharetta, GA
5. Parrish Huddleston, DT, Dorsey, MS*
6. Kelepi Folau, OL, Concord, CA*
7. Robert Mondie, DT, Memphis, TN*
8. Kelvin Shelton, OL, Moreno Valley, CA*
9. Taz Wilson, QB, Alpharetta, GA
10. Cody Clements, QB, Whittier, CA*

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	C-USA	National
Scoring	26.3 ppg	7	82
Rushing	178.1 ypg	7	52
Passing	214.8 ypg	5	78
Total	392.9 ypg	6	78
Defense	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
Scoring	43.8 ppg	13	119
Rushing	221.3 ypg	11	109
Passing	276.5 ypg	13	115
Total	497.8 ypg	13	116
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
-6	-0.5	9	97

UAB SID

OFFENSE Finding playmakers shouldn't be a problem for the Blazers. Finding someone to get the football to the playmakers could be a bit trickier. UAB has several quarterback candidates but none with any significant FBS experience. Junior college transfer Cody Clements moved to the front during spring practice, but redshirt freshman Jeremiah Briscoe, who had shoulder surgery last season, is not far behind. Four other quarterbacks are on the roster, including a pair of true freshmen, but it looks like the job will go to either Clements or Briscoe.

The good news is, they can spread it around to some quality playmakers. Sophomore running back Jordan Howard was a Freshman All-Conference USA selection after sharing the position with departed standout Darrin Reaves. If junior Bashr Coles stays healthy, then the Blazers have a pair of rugged runners.

Senior receiver Jamarcus Nelson was one of the most dynamic receivers in the conference last season — averaging 20.1 per catch on his 42 receptions and scoring eight touchdowns — and sophomore Jamari Staples is also a big-play threat. They are just the start of a deep and talented corps of pass-catchers that also features the top C-USA tight end in veteran Kennard Backman.

UAB should be solid up front, even though there could be a bunch of interchangeable parts. The Blazers have four returning regulars, including a pair of solid tackles in Cameron Blankenship and Victor Salako, and plenty of incoming help. Redshirt freshman center Zach Sims could be a future star.

STAT CORNER

5.8

Average points per trip inside the 40 allowed by UAB, worst in the country. Instead of bend-don't-break, the Blazers bent and broke.

DEFENSE UAB fans are accustomed to bad defense. New head coach Bill Clark, a defensive coach by trade, looks to change that quickly. The Blazers appear to be deep on the defensive side and possibly more talented than in the recent past. Time will tell if that translates into more defensive success.

The secondary should be a strength after a disastrous 2013 when injuries decimated the defensive backfield. Calvin Jones and Jay Davis, who started at safety in last year's opener, return after missing most of the season with injuries. They are part of a deep group of safeties, including intriguing junior college transfer Kalen Jackson, who also could play linebacker. Cornerback is well manned with Kelton Brackett, Lamarcus Farmer and Jimmy Jean leading the way.

UAB has to get better up front. Defensive ends Diaheem Watkins and undersized Chris Rabb give UAB speed on the edge, but the Blazers need to shore up the inside. Junior Jontavious Morris is solid at nose tackle, and junior college transfers Parrish Huddleston and Robert Mondie will contribute. Health is not an issue, and the numbers are good if some first-year players can fit in right away.

Jake Ganus, last year's leading tackler, returns at linebacker but is not guaranteed a starting spot. Truth is, no one had a starting spot secured heading into fall camp. Destin Challenger played well in a short stint before getting injured last season, and Shaq Jones is impressive physically. Perhaps the most important thing is finding someone to win the job in the middle.

SPECIALISTS The Blazers have one of the top pairs of specialists in the league in kicker Ty Long and punter Hunter Mullins. Nelson is a dynamic kick returner.

FINAL ANALYSIS Don't expect miracles from Clark in his first season, but do expect improvement from Garrick McGee's short tenure as the program's head coach. Defensive improvement is a must, and someone needs to secure the quarterback job. It wouldn't be a surprise to see UAB double its win total from last season, which was two, but they are probably a couple of years away from turning things completely in the right direction.

JAMARCUS NELSON

THE QUOTE

"It's a hard job, probably the hardest job in the league. It should be one of the best. By location, it's a no-brainer."

— An opposing C-USA assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	1	**Jamarcus Nelson (Sr.)**	8	Nyiakki Height (Jr.)
WR	2	**Jamari Staples (So.)**	4	J.J. Green (So.)
WR	3	Maudrecus Humphrey (Sr.)	13	Darius Powell (Jr.)
LT	77	**Victor Salako (So.)**	70	Hayden Naumann (Jr.)
LG	56	**Roscoe Byrd (Jr.)**		Kelepi Folau (Jr.)
C	53	Zach Sims (Fr.)	65	Dominic Sylvester (Jr.)
RG	76	**Brian O'Leary (Sr.)**	64	Vincent Hunter (Fr.)
RT	71	Cameron Blankenship (Jr.)		Ryan Krum (Jr.)
TE	86	**Kennard Backman (Sr.)**	12	Nolen Smith (Sr.)
QB	5	Cody Clements (Jr.)	16	Jeremiah Briscoe (Fr.)
RB	7	Jordan Howard (So.)	32	Bashr Coles (Jr.)

DEFENSE (6)

DE	46	**Diaheem Watkins (Sr.)**	15	Kingsley Ejike (Fr.)
DT		Parrish Huddleston (Jr.)	43	Robert Mondie (Jr.)
NT	55	Jontavious Morris (Jr.)	98	Uneik Crumbley (Jr.)
DE	90	Chris Walton (Sr.)	**49**	**Chris Rabb (Jr.)**
WLB	4	**Jake Ganus (Jr.)**	42	Shaq Jones (Jr.)
MLB	31	Brandon Fuller (Fr.)	27	Jalen Coleman (Fr.)
SLB	25	Destin Challenger (Jr.)	**33**	**Derek Slaughter (Jr.)**
CB	3	Lamarcus Farmer (Jr.)	**17**	**Jordan Petty (So.)**
CB	21	Kelton Brackett (Jr.)	**7**	**Jimmy Jean (Sr.)**
FS	11	Calvin Jones (Sr.)	12	Greg Maclin (So.)
SS	8	Jay Davis (Sr.)	6	Nick Jackson (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	2	Ty Long (Sr.)	KR	1	Jamarcus Nelson (Sr.)
P	36	Hunter Mullins (Sr.)	PR	1	Jamarcus Nelson (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: None
Rushing: Jordan Howard, 145 att., 881 yds., 2 TDs
Receiving: Jamarcus Nelson, 42 rec., 846 yds., 8 TDs
Tackles: Jake Ganus, 93
Sacks: Diaheem Watkins, 5.5
Interceptions: Jimmy Jean, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

WKU HILLTOPPERS

NATIONAL FORECAST **92**
C-USA EAST PREDICTION **4**

Head Coach: Jeff Brohm
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: First Season
Offensive Coordinator: Tyson Helton
Defensive Coordinator: Nick Holt
Bowling Green, KY
Houchens Industries-L.T. Smith Stadium (23,113)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 5-7, 4-4 (C-USA)

August	
29	Bowling Green
September	
6	at Illinois
13	at Middle Tennessee
27	at Navy
October	
4	UAB
18	at Florida Atlantic
25	Old Dominion
November	
1	at Louisiana Tech
8	UTEP
15	Army
22	UTSA
28	at Marshall

2013 RESULTS (8-4, 4-3)

Aug. 31	vs. Kentucky %	W	35–26
Sept. 7	at Tennessee	L	20–52
Sept. 14	at South Alabama	L	24–31
Sept. 21	Morgan State	W	58–17
Sept. 28	Navy	W	19–7
Oct. 3	at ULM	W	31–10
Oct. 15	UL Lafayette	L	20–37
Oct. 26	Troy	L	26–32
Nov. 2	at Georgia State	W	44–28
Nov. 9	at Army	W	21–17
Nov. 23	at Texas State	W	38–7
Nov. 30	Arkansas State	W	34–31

%Nashville

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Dejon Brown, LB, Beaumont, CA*
2. Nacarius Fant, WR, Bowling Green, KY
3. Jared Dangerfield, WR, West Palm Beach, FL*
4. D'Andre Ferby, RB, Nashville, TN
5. Dennis Edwards, OL, Snellville, GA
6. Antwane Grant, WR, Wilmington, DE*
7. DeAndre Ferris, ATH, Shelbyville, KY
8. Nick Holt, LB, Seattle, WA*
9. Joe Brown, DB, Louisville, KY
10. Martavius Mims, DB, Muscle Shoals, AL

* junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Sun Belt	National
Scoring	30.8 ppg	3	53
Rushing	196.8 ypg	3	34
Passing	261.7 ypg	2	35
Total	458.5 ypg	2	30
Defense	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**	**National**
Scoring	24.6 ppg	1	44
Rushing	161.3 ypg	4	59
Passing	177.9 ypg	1	10
Total	339.2 ypg	1	14
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**	**National**
-10	-0.8	7	112

OFFENSE Bobby Petrino's cup of coffee as Western Kentucky coach produced 20 offensive school records (10 team, 10 individual) and an 8–4 record before he shuffled off to be Louisville's coach again. The offensive wizard thought enough of Jeff Brohm to name him offensive coordinator, and WKU thought enough of the former Louisville quarterback and NFL backup to name him Petrino's successor.

Those 10 offensive player records were split evenly between running back Antonio Andrews, the national leader in total yardage the last two seasons, and quarterback Brandon Doughty, who led the best offensive season (5,502 yards) in program history. Doughty set season records in passing yards (2,857) and completion percentage (65.8) and single-game marks in completions (29) and yardage (387).

With Brohm coaching, Doughty directing and six starters returning, the offense shouldn't miss a beat, even if Andrews is gone and the level of competition is upgraded from the Sun Belt to Conference USA. Junior running back Leon Allen has breakout potential and is ready to take on the role of lead ball-carrier. Three returning receivers, led by senior Willie McNeal, are joined by junior college standout Jared Dangerfield. Tight end Mitchell Henry is reliable and productive.

Several contributors along an offensive line that paved the way for Andrews to set a WKU single-season rushing record return — although there could be some players switching positions. The group is led by senior right tackle Cam Clemmons, a fourth-year starter.

STAT CORNER

63.6

Percentage of new WKU head coach Jeff Brohm's 11-year collegiate coaching career that has been based in the state of Kentucky.

DEFENSE It's a misconception to assert that Petrino's teams don't play defense. The Hilltoppers finished 14th in the nation in total defense, with a 10th-ranked pass defense. Veteran coordinator Nick Holt has his hands full to try to reproduce those numbers with only two returning starters.

But one of those back is senior Cam Thomas, who's among the top cornerbacks in the country. He led the Sun Belt and tied for 18th nationally with five interceptions. Secondary running mates are inexperienced but promising.

It's a clean slate at linebacker, where WKU stayed within the family to sign Nick Holt, son of the defensive coordinator. One service ranked Holt the 11th-best junior college middle linebacker in the nation. Junior end Gavin Rocker is the only returning starter on the defensive front. At 6'1", 332 pounds, senior tackle Jamichael Payne has one last chance to live up to lofty expectations.

SPECIALISTS Junior Garrett Schwettman is a capable kicker who made seven field goals in a row during one stretch last season. He's 23-of-29 (79.3 percent) over two seasons. Sophomore punter Joseph Occhipinti needs to improve on his average of 32.8 yards per punt (in part-time duty). The return game was hit hard by the loss of Andrews, who handled kickoff and punt duties. McNeal has the sure hands and athleticism to return punts.

FINAL ANALYSIS After seven seasons as an NFL backup quarterback with six teams, Brohm quickly transitioned to college coaching. A dozen years later, he is getting his first opportunity as a head coach. And of the 20 new coaches in the FBS ranks, Brohm is the only one promoted to the top job from the previous staff. Six assistants also stayed instead of following Petrino or jumping elsewhere. That rare continuity after a coaching change should bode well for a team that was snubbed for a bowl berth despite winning eight games. The Hilltoppers figure to have a tough time matching last year's win total — the schedule is more difficult — but this is a program that can compete for C-USA titles in the near future.

WILLIE McNEAL

WKU SID

THE QUOTE

"Most talented team in conference last year by far. Never reached potential. Word was, lots of internal issues on the team."

— An opposing C-USA assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	**10**	**Willie McNeal (Sr.)**	6	Joel German (Sr.)
WR	21	Jared Dangerfield (Jr.)	13	Antwane Grant (Jr.)
WR	**2**	**Taywan Taylor (So.)**	15	Nicholas Norris (So.)
LT	**76**	**Forrest Lamp (So.)**	75	Jimmie Sims (Fr.)
LG	51	Brandon Ray (Fr.)	67	Derrick Stark (Sr.)
C	**70**	**Max Halpin (So.)**	67	Derrick Stark (Sr.)
RG	62	Darrell Williams (So.)	72	Connor Popeck (Sr.)
RT	**52**	**Cam Clemmons (Sr.)**	69	Matt Nord (So.)
TE	80	Mitchell Henry (Sr.)	82	Tyler Higbee (Jr.)
QB	**12**	**Brandon Doughty (Sr.)**	9	Nelson Fishback (Jr.)
RB	33	Leon Allen (Jr.)	20	Anthony Wales (So.)

DEFENSE (2)

DE	16	T.J. Smith (Sr.)	53	Julian Leslie (So.)
DT	97	Jamichael Payne (Sr.)	92	Ge'Monee Brown (Jr.)
DT	94	Bryan Shorter (Jr.)	99	D'Von Isaac (So.)
DE	**88**	**Gavin Rocker (Jr.)**	59	Tanner Reeves (Fr.)
OLB	31	Terran Williams (Sr.)	34	Drew Davis (So.)
MLB	17	Daqual Randall (Jr.)	10	Nick Holt (Jr.)
OLB	6	Devante Duclos (So.)	13	Dejon Brown (Jr.)
CB	**19**	**Cam Thomas (Sr.)**	24	Dalton Patterson (Jr.)
CB	30	Prince Charles Iworah (Jr.)	7	DeVante Thomas (Sr.)
FS	8	Marcus Ward (So.)	14	Juwan Gardner (Fr.)
SS	38	Ricardo Singh (Sr.)	28	Rico Brown (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	56	Garrett Schwettman (Jr.)	**KR**	20	Anthony Wales (So.)
P	15	Joseph Occhipinti (So.)	**PR**	10	Willie McNeal (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Brandon Doughty, 374-246-2,857-14, 14 TDs
Rushing: Leon Allen, 72 att., 357 yds., 5 TDs
Receiving: Willie McNeal, 46 rec., 599 yds., 5 TDs
Tackles: Cam Thomas, 41
Sacks: Kelvin Robinson, 2; Gavin Rocker, 2
Interceptions: Cam Thomas, 5

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

LOUISIANA TECH BULLDOGS

NATIONAL FORECAST **112**
C-USA WEST PREDICTION **4**

Head Coach: Skip Holtz
Record at School: 4-8 (1 year)
Career Record: 92-79 (14 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Tony Petersen
Defensive Coordinator: Manny Diaz
Ruston, LA
Joe Aillet Stadium (30,600)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 4-8, 3-5 (C-USA)

August	
30	at Oklahoma
September	
6	at UL Lafayette
11	at North Texas
20	Northwestern State
27	at Auburn
October	
4	UTEP
18	UTSA
25	at Southern Miss
November	
1	Western Kentucky
8	at UAB
22	at Old Dominion
29	Rice

2013 RESULTS (4-8, 3-5)

Aug. 31	at NC State	L	14–40
Sept. 7	Lamar	W	27–14
Sept. 12	Tulane	L	15–24
Sept. 21	at Kansas	L	10–13
Sept. 28	vs. Army %	L	16–35
Oct. 5	at UTEP	W	38–35
Oct. 19	North Texas	L	13–28
Oct. 26	at FIU	W	23–7
Nov. 9	Southern Miss	W	36–13
Nov. 16	at Rice	L	14–52
Nov. 23	Tulsa	L	14–24
Nov. 30	at UTSA	L	10–30

%Dallas

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Cedric Johnson, DT, Rowlett, TX
2. Kameron McKnight, WR, Ethel, LA
3. Sanford Seay, WR, Leesburg, GA*
4. Deldrick Canty, DE, Baton Rouge, LA
5. Alex Woodall, QB, Summit, MS
6. Jaylon Ferguson, DE, St. Francisville, LA
7. Price Wilson, QB, Marietta, GA
8. Broderick Jefferson, WR, Bossier City, LA
9. Kirby Wixson, C, Pearl, MS*
10. Michael Rodriguez, OL, La Porte, TX

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	C-USA	National
Scoring	19.2 ppg	11	111
Rushing	160.2 ypg	9	73
Passing	206.0 ypg	7	87
Total	366.2 ypg	8	94
Defense	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
Scoring	26.3 ppg	8	61
Rushing	194.8 ypg	7	91
Passing	213.5 ypg	6	31
Total	408.3 ypg	8	69
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
-3	-0.3	7	79

Louisiana Tech University SID

OFFENSE When you go from scoring 51 points per game one season to 19 points the next, you know you've got some issues. Louisiana Tech knew it would take a step back in 2013 after the departures of quarterback Colby Cameron and other experienced players on offense. But to have the production cut so dramatically in Skip Holtz's first season was definitely cause for concern.

It starts at quarterback. Ryan Higgins and Scotty Young shared the position in 2013, essentially replacing each other every time one was injured. Young, who began his career at Texas Tech, left the program after spring, leaving Higgins to battle Iowa transfer Cody Sokol for the starting assignment in the fall. Sokol, a former junior college transfer, did not attempt a pass during his time at Iowa.

There is plenty of talent at running back, with Kenneth Dixon starting and the explosive Tevin King spelling him for carries. Knee injuries cut into Dixon's sophomore production after he racked up an amazing 28 total touchdowns as a freshman in 2012. The offensive line was a major weakness last season, and with two starters gone, it's a question mark heading into the 2014 season.

In Tech's four-receiver set, LSU transfer Paul Turner is expected to provide a spark on the outside after sitting out last season. Inside receivers Hunter Lee and Trent Taylor combined for 44 catches in 2013.

STAT CORNER

16.3

Reduction in offensive plays per game by Louisiana Tech from 2012 — when they led the nation in total offense — to last season.

DEFENSE Three new defensive coaches were added in the offseason, including coordinator Manny Diaz, who most recently had the same position at Texas. Diaz will have six returning starters to work with on a unit that gave up 408.3 yards and 26.3 points per game.

The defensive line lost three starters, but the Bulldogs used an eight-man rotation, so there is experience up front. End Vontarrius Dora was part of the first unit a year ago, and Vernon Butler is a potential all-league candidate at defensive tackle. The Bulldogs added an intriguing piece after spring practice when Houston Bates, an honorable mention All-Big Ten pick while at Illinois in 2013, announced he was transferring to Tech for his final season. He is a hybrid end/linebacker who can get after the quarterback.

Louisiana Tech will likely use a 4-3-4 set this season after going 4-2-5 in 2013. Mitch Villemez was third in tackles and forced three fumbles, starting all 12 games. Beau Fitte is a candidate to break out this season after recording a sack and two interceptions in a reserve role as a sophomore.

The Bulldogs' secondary should be a position of strength. Five players who started last year are back, led by potential all-league picks Adairius Barnes (corner) and Xavier Woods (safety). Woods, who started 10 games as a true freshmen, moves to nickel when the Bulldogs go with five defensive backs.

SPECIALISTS Both kicker Kyle Fischer and punter Logan McPherson will resume their duties. Fischer was 4-for-6 from beyond 40 and made 12 of his last 13 field goals after an early-season slump. McPherson averaged a C-USA-low 38.0 yards per punt. Lee is expected to take over for Lyle Fitte as the Bulldogs' primary kickoff returner. He averaged 22.2 yards on five returns in 2013.

FINAL ANALYSIS It was a rough first season for Holtz, and Year 2 may be a struggle as well. Four of the first five games are on the road, including trips to Oklahoma and Auburn. For Louisiana Tech to improve, the quarterback situation needs to sort itself out, and the offensive line has to provide more help for the talented running back tandem of Dixon and King. The defense has a chance to be decent if the front four can get stronger against the run. Bowl eligibility would be a significant step forward for Holtz and the Bulldogs.

KENNETH DIXON

THE QUOTE

"Kenneth Dixon is the real deal. Best running back in the league. They don't have an elite quarterback, but they can manage the game."

— An opposing C-USA assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	4	**Sterling Griffin (Sr.)**	2	Sanford Seay (Jr.)
WR	36	**Hunter Lee (Sr.)**	85	Trent Taylor (So.)
WR	88	Eddie Johnson (Sr.)	9	Conner Smith (So.)
WR	3	Paul Turner (Jr.)	86	Carlos Henderson (Fr.)
LT	77	Darrell Brown (So.)	63	Chris Aye (Fr.)
LG	67	**Tre Carter (Sr.)**	68	Josh Robinson (Jr.)
C	62	Joseph Brunson (So.)	79	Cam Manning (Fr.)
RG	57	Richard Greenwalt (Sr.)	73	Kirby Wixson (Jr.)
RT	78	**Mitchell Bell (Sr.)**	77	**Jens Danielsen (Sr.)**
QB	14	Ryan Higgins (So.)		Cody Sokol (Sr.)
RB	28	**Kenneth Dixon (Jr.)**	26	Tevin King (So.)

DEFENSE (6)

DE	98	**Vontarrius Dora (Jr.)**	34	Mike Schrang (Sr.)
DT	58	Devon McKinney (Sr.)	90	DeAngelo Brooks (Sr.)
DT	45	Vernon Butler (Jr.)	99	Malcolm Pichon (Jr.)
DE		Houston Bates (Sr.)	84	Andre Taylor (Sr.)
LB	32	**Mitch Villemez (Sr.)**	6	Beau Fitte (Jr.)
LB	42	Tony Johnson (Sr.)	24	Nick Thomason (Jr.)
LB	31	Terrell Pinson (Sr.)	35	C.J. Cleveland (Jr.)
CB	21	**Adairius Barnes (Jr.)**	15	Bryson Abraham (Jr.)
CB	13	**Le'Vander Liggins (Sr.)**	16	Jabari Prewitt (Sr.)
S	11	Lloyd Grogan (So.)	3	**Thomas McDonald (Sr.)**
S	39	**Xavier Woods (So.)**	23	Kentrell Brice (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	17	Kyle Fischer (Jr.)	KR 36	Hunter Lee (Sr.)
P	43	Logan McPherson (So.)	PR 85	Trent Taylor (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Ryan Higgins, 281-166-1,715-13, 6 TDs
Rushing: Kenneth Dixon, 151 att., 917 yds., 4 TDs
Receiving: Trent Taylor, 28 rec., 260 yds., 2 TDs
Tackles: Thomas McDonald, 70
Sacks: Vontarrius Dora, 2.5
Interceptions: Adairius Barnes, 4

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

NORTH TEXAS MEAN GREEN

NATIONAL FORECAST **86**
C-USA WEST PREDICTION **1**

Head Coach: Dan McCarney
Record at School: 18-19 (3 years)
Career Record: 74-104 (15 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Mike Canales
Defensive Coordinator: John Skladany
Denton, TX
Apogee Stadium (30,850)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 7-6, 6-2 (C-USA)

August	
30	at Texas
September	
6	SMU
11	Louisiana Tech
20	Nicholls State
October	
4	at Indiana
11	at UAB
18	Southern Miss
25	at Rice
November	
8	Florida Atlantic
15	at UTEP
22	FIU
29	at UTSA

2013 RESULTS (9-4, 6-2)

Aug. 31	Idaho	W	40–6
Sept. 7	at Ohio	L	21–27
Sept. 14	Ball State	W	34–27
Sept. 21	at Georgia	L	21–45
Oct. 5	at Tulane	L	21–24
Oct. 12	Middle Tennessee	W	34–7
Oct. 19	at Louisiana Tech	W	28–13
Oct. 26	at Southern Miss	W	55–14
Oct. 31	Rice	W	28–16
Nov. 9	UTEP	W	41–7
Nov. 23	UTSA	L	13–21
Nov. 30	at Tulsa	W	42–10
Jan. 1	vs. UNLV #	W	36–14

#Heart Of Dallas Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Tee Goree, WR, Carthage, TX
2. Fonzale Davis, WR, Dallas, TX
3. Jalen Adams, WR, Moore, OK
4. Willy Ivery, RB, Sulphur Springs, TX
5. Brandon Garner, LB, Mansfield, TX
6. A.J. Smith, LB, Stilwell, OK*
7. Josh Greer, QB, Arlington, TX*
8. Trevor Moore, K, Edmond, OK
9. Tillman Johnson, DE, Round Rock, TX
10. Christopher Miles, OL, Flower Mound, TX

*junior college transfers

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	C-USA	National
Scoring	31.8 ppg	3	49
Rushing	180.7 ypg	6	49
Passing	229.8 ypg	4	66
Total	410.5 ypg	3	63
Defense	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
Scoring	17.8 ppg	1	8
Rushing	120.5 ypg	2	14
Passing	227.8 ypg	9	61
Total	348.3 ypg	2	17
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
+11	+0.8	2	15

OFFENSE Four offensive line starters return for one of Conference USA's best units at any position. Coach Dan McCarney hopes that's enough to support a new starting quarterback and a revamped rotation of skill players.

"Our offensive line is definitely the strength of our football team," says McCarney, who returns only five offensive starters overall. "And those linemen are my kind of guys. We are just trying every day to find playmakers to put with them. But it's hard to get a feel for that. How do you really know?"

Junior Andrew McNulty and junior college transfer Josh Greer should take their quarterback competition deep into preseason camp. Their skill sets are similar, but both carry concerns over their inexperience. McNulty, a career backup, has thrown only five passes in the past two seasons. Greer had an impressive run at nearby Navarro (Texas) College, but it lasted only six games. The starter will be expected to protect the ball and provide a few big plays amid a new assortment of offensive weapons.

Wideout Carlos Harris (47 receptions, 553 yards) steps into the go-to-guy spot, but the No. 2 receiver role is an unknown. Sophomore Darvin Kidsy and senior Darius Terrell, a former Texas Longhorn, are the top candidates.

Running backs Antoinne Jimmerson (446 yards, seven TDs) and Reggie Pegram (338 yards, six TDs) should benefit the most from the veteran offensive line, which is led by surefire NFL prospect Cyril Lemon and fellow all-conference selection Mason Y'Barbo.

STAT CORNER

+7.2

North Texas' starting field position margin in 2013, third in the country. Efficiency and special teams proved to be a nice combination.

DEFENSE The 2013 squad ranked second nationally in red-zone defense, fourth in takeaways and eighth in scoring defense, but only one among the starting front seven returns. The entire defensive line is gone, and star middle linebacker Zach Orr must also be replaced.

Senior linebacker Derek Akunne takes the torch. He has 200 career tackles and the respect of his teammates to assume a leadership role. McCarney has faith that the defensive line questions will be answered in time.

"We will get to an eight-man rotation," McCarney says. "I know it doesn't look like it now, but I've seen it before. We got to that point in the second half of last season."

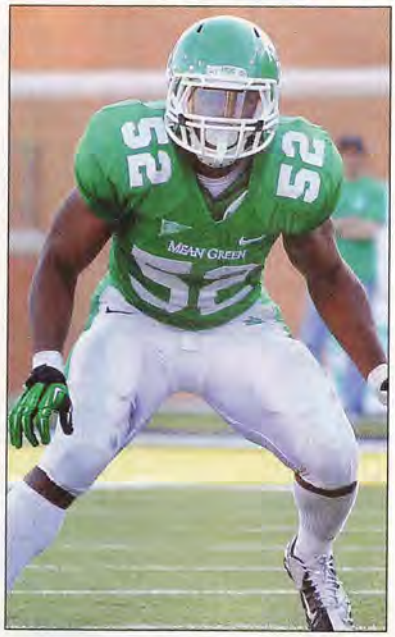
The good news is that three of four starting defensive backs return, led by cornerback Kenny Buyers and safety Lairamie Lee. Cornerbacks Zac Whitfield and James Jones are also back. The trio combined for nine of the team's 18 interceptions in 2013.

SPECIALISTS Replacing Brelan Chancellor, one of the nation's best kick/punt returners, will be a tall order and likely an open competition early in the season. Zach Paul was 10-of-15 on field goals last season, but he may get a battle from lauded freshman kicker Trevor Moore. Blake Macek returns as punter.

FINAL ANALYSIS A new starting quarterback and a rebuilt defensive front seven usually point to a rebuilding year, and that still may be the case for the Mean Green. But there are enough concerns elsewhere in the C-USA West Division to keep North Texas right in the mix for contention. Plus, the program has a different feel after posting nine wins and the Mean Green's first bowl victory in 11 years last season.

"(Rebuilding) is fair for people to say, but great programs reload," McCarney says. "Not many people knew about us when I got here. We need to keep it going and not go back into the woods."

A home opener against SMU should be telling about the team's potential. And if the Mean Green are still in the hunt, an Oct. 25 trip to Rice could provide a title shot. North Texas handed C-USA champion Rice its lone league loss last season.



DEREK AKUNNE

THE QUOTE

"The Brelan Chancellor kid was good. He could do a number of things. Losing him will hurt. Not sure what the plan is at quarterback."

— An opposing C-USA assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	**9**	**Carlos Harris (Jr.)**	31	John Chelf (Sr.)
WR	11	Darius Terrell (Sr.)	1	Turner Smiley (Fr.)
WR	4	Darvin Kidsy (So.)	83	Carl Caldwell (Sr.)
LT	**71**	**Antonio Johnson (Sr.)**	76	Harrison Sorge (Fr.)
LG	**57**	**Mason Y'Barbo (Sr.)**	77	Travis Ellard (Jr.)
C	**50**	**Kaydon Kirby (So.)**	53	Shawn McKinney (Sr.)
RG	**62**	**Cyril Lemon (Sr.)**	65	Micah Thompson (Jr.)
RT	72	Ryan Rentfro (So.)	66	Michael Banogu (Jr.)
TE	18	Marcus Smith (Jr.)	88	Tanner Smith (Sr.)
QB	5	Andrew McNulty (Jr.)	8	Josh Greer (So.)
RB	2	Reggie Pegram (Sr.)	22	Antoinne Jimmerson (Jr.)

DEFENSE (4)

DE	56	Malik Dilonga (So.)	42	Chad Polk (Jr.)
DT	91	Austin Orr (Jr.)	98	Dutton Watson (So.)
DT	95	Alexander Lincoln (Sr.)	63	Sid Moore (Fr.)
DE	49	Daryl Mason (Sr.)	30	Jarrian Roberts (So.)
OLB	**7**	**Derek Akunne (Sr.)**	3	Calvin Minor (So.)
MLB	32	Fred Scott (So.)	39	Blake Bean (Sr.)
OLB	9	Sed Ellis (So.)	14	Jamal Marshall (Jr.)
CB	23	Zac Whitfield (Jr.)	**13**	**James Jones (Sr.)**
CB	**31**	**Kenny Buyers (Jr.)**	16	Chad Davis (So.)
FS	21	Freddie Warner (Jr.)	39	Sheldon Wade (Sr.)
SS	**27**	**Lairamie Lee (Sr.)**	1	Zed Evans (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	26	Zach Paul (Jr.)	**KR**	13	James Jones (Sr.)
P	40	Blake Macek (So.)	**PR**	9	Carlos Harris (Jr)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Andrew McNulty, 6-5-36-1, 0 TDs
Rushing: Antoinne Jimmerson, 107 att., 446 yds., 7 TDs
Receiving: Carlos Harris, 47 rec., 553 yds., 2 TDs
Tackles: Derek Akunne, 90
Sacks: Chad Polk, 3.0
Interceptions: 3 players tied with 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Rick Yeatts

RICE OWLS

NATIONAL FORECAST **87**
C-USA WEST PREDICTION **2**

Head Coach: David Bailiff
Record at School: 40-48 (7 years)
Career Record: 61-63 (10 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Larry Edmondson
Defensive Coordinator: Chris Thurmond
Houston, TX
Rice Stadium (47,000)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 7-5, 6-2 (C-USA)

August	
30	at Notre Dame
September	
13	at Texas A&M
20	Old Dominion
27	at Southern Miss
October	
11	at Army
25	North Texas
November	
1	at FIU
8	UTSA
15	at Marshall
21	UTEP
29	at Louisiana Tech

2013 RESULTS (10-4, 7-1)

Aug. 31	at Texas A&M		L	31-52
Sept. 14	Kansas		W	23-14
Sept. 21	Houston		L	26-31
Sept. 28	Florida Atlantic		W	18-14
Oct. 5	at Tulsa	(ot)	W	30-27
Oct. 12	at UTSA		W	27-21
Oct. 19	at New Mexico State		W	45-19
Oct. 26	UTEP		W	45-7
Oct. 31	at North Texas		L	16-28
Nov. 16	Louisiana Tech		W	52-14
Nov. 21	at UAB	(ot)	W	37-34
Nov. 30	Tulane		W	17-13
Dec. 7	Marshall %		W	41-24
Dec. 31	vs. Miss. State #		L	7-44

%C-USA Championship #Liberty Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Samuel Stewart, RB, Cypress, TX
2. Austin Walter, RB, Crosby, TX
3. Jeremy Jones, QB, San Antonio, TX
4. Auton Walter, ATH, Crosby, TX
5. Destri White, ATH, Mesquite, TX
6. Lance Wright, WR, Fairbanks, AK
7. J.T. Ibe, S, Mansfield, TX
8. Jorian Clark, DB, Mesquite, TX
9. Preston Gordon, DT, McKinney, TX
10. Brady Wright, DE, Cypress, TX

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	C-USA	National
Scoring	29.6 ppg	4	62
Rushing	227.4 ypg	1	17
Passing	178.2 ypg	11	103
Total	405.6 ypg	5	68
Defense	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
Scoring	24.4 ppg	5	42
Rushing	161.4 ypg	5	61
Passing	202.7 ypg	2	18
Total	364.1 ypg	4	30
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
+7	+0.5	5	28

OFFENSE The Owls may have lost last year's top rusher, Charles Ross, and quarterback Taylor McHargue, but they still have plenty of firepower available this season. New offensive coordinator Larry Edmondson is quite comfortable at Rice, since he has spent the last three seasons directing the passing game and coaching the quarterbacks.

That's good news for quarterback Driphus Jackson, who missed most of last year with injuries. The junior can pressure defenses by running and throwing, and if he becomes a more consistent passer, Rice will be in good shape. "He had a good spring," coach David Bailiff says of Jackson. "It was important for his growth that we kept the continuity in the offense. Driphus was consistently able to work on getting better. He's a tremendous leader of our football team and is courageous."

Expect several backs to get carries, including Jowan Davis (476 yards), Darik Dillard (396) and Luke Turner. They'll work behind a line that has three returning starters, although left tackle remains a question mark. Jordan Taylor caught 55 passes and scored eight times last year, making him a top target, and Dennis Parks averaged 17.5 yards on his 29 catches.

DEFENSE The Owls didn't shackle opponents last year, but they were pretty solid most of the time and held six opponents under 20 points. There is reason to believe that the unit will be even better this year.

Bailiff calls the linebacking corps "the depth of the defense," but Rice's defensive front will be pretty good, too. Junior tackle Christian Covington was a first-team all-conference choice last year. Nose guard Stuart Mouchantaf tore his knee last October but is expected to be ready for the opening of preseason camp. The end positions feature new starters.

Senior weak-side linebacker James Radcliffe has good speed and can find the football, while sophomore Alex Lyons showed he was a sure tackler in space on the strong side in 2013. Expect junior Nick Elder and a pair of redshirt freshmen, Nick Uretsky and DJ Green, to see time at linebacker, also.

Although the Owls return three starters to their five-man secondary, Bailiff acknowledges that the departure of cornerback Phillip Gaines is "a big loss." But there is a lot of reason for optimism in a secondary that allowed rival passers to complete only 51.7 percent of their throws last year. Senior safety Julius White was third on the team in tackles and picked off two passes, while seniors Bryce Callahan and Malcolm Hill, a converted safety, provide a strong pairing on the corners.

SPECIALISTS Junior James Farrimond had a solid season in 2013, averaging 42.1 yards per punt, but he could be better. Hill and Callahan are serviceable return men, but the Owls need to find a new kicker.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Owls won 10 games last year and took the C-USA title by whipping Marshall in the championship game. Two years ago, Rice fans wondered whether Bailiff was the man to run the program. Now, they are convinced of his ability to lead. The Owls are in a position where they can redshirt just about all their freshmen. That's huge.

But Rice will be tested this year. The schedule features seven road games with four of the first five away from home. If Jackson can return to the form he flashed at the end of the 2012 season, Rice will be dangerous on offense, thanks to a strong supporting cast around him. The defense is deep and experienced. Another C-USA title may be asking too much, but the Owls should be bowling, for sure.

STAT CORNER

15

Rice wins in its last 19 games. The Owls began 2012 2-6 but finished strong, then won C-USA in '13.

JORDAN TAYLOR

AP Photo/Houston Chronicle, Smiley N. Pool

THE QUOTE

"Dave (Bailiff) is a helluva football coach. That's a hard job. They don't do it with NFL Draft picks all over the place."

— An opposing C-USA assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	4	**Dennis Parks (Jr.)**	85	Temi Alaka (Fr.)
WR	1	Mario Hull (Sr.)	17	Parker Smith (Fr.)
WR	15	**Jordan Taylor (Sr.)**	9	Zach Wright (So.)
LT	76	**Andrew Reue (Jr.)**	78	Brandon Dawkins (So.)
LG	55	**Nico Carlson (Sr.)**	71	Connor Patterson (So.)
C	60	Matt Simonette (Sr.)	52	Spencer Stanley (So.)
RG	76	Drew Carroll (Sr.)	51	Peter Godber (Fr.)
RT	74	**Caleb Williams (Jr.)**	72	Ian Gray (Sr.)
TE	87	**Connor Cella (So.)**	88	Robby Wells (So.)
QB	5	Driphus Jackson (Jr.)	10	Tyler Stehling (So.)
RB	32	Darik Dillard (So.)	3	Jowan Davis (So.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	8	Derek Brown (Jr.)	18	Zach Patt (Sr.)
NT	92	**Stuart Mouchantaf (Sr.)**	99	**Ross Winship (Jr.)**
DT	1	**Christian Covington (Jr.)**	96	Dylan Klare (Sr.)
DE	47	Brian Nordstrom (Jr.)	80	Grant Peterson (Jr.)
SLB	41	Alex Lyons (So.)	21	Nick Uretsky (Fr.)
WLB	26	**James Radcliffe (Sr.)**	46	Nick Elder (Jr.)
CB	29	**Bryce Callahan (Sr.)**	22	Ryan Pollard (Jr.)
CB	2	**Malcolm Hill (Sr.)**	14	J.T. Blasingame (So.)
KAT	25	Jaylon Finner (Sr.)	2	Malcolm Hill (Sr.)
FS	7	**Julius White (Sr.)**	11	Garrett Fuhrman (Jr.)
SS	40	Gabe Baker (Sr.)	6	Zach Espinosa (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	7	Taylor Knopf (Fr.)	KR	2	Malcolm Hill (Sr.)
P	27	James Farrimond (Jr.)	PR	29	Bryce Callahan (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Driphus Jackson, 16-5-50-1, 0 TDs
Rushing: Jowan Davis, 95 att., 476 yds., 3 TDs
Receiving: Jordan Taylor, 55 rec., 848 yds., 8 TDs
Tackles: Julius White, 67
Sacks: Christian Covington, 4
Interceptions: Malcolm Hill, 3; Bryce Callahan, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

SOUTHERN MISS GOLDEN EAGLES

NATIONAL FORECAST **115**
C-USA EAST PREDICTION **5**

Head Coach: Todd Monken
Record at School: 1-11 (1 year)
Career Record: 1-11 (1 year)
Offensive Coordinator: Chip Lindsey
Defensive Coordinator: David Duggan
Hattiesburg, MS
M.M. Roberts Stadium (36,000)

2014 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 4-8, 2-6 (C-USA)

August		
30	at Mississippi State	
September		
6	Alcorn State	
13	at Alabama	
20	Appalachian State	
27	Rice	
October		
4	at Middle Tennessee	
18	at North Texas	
25	Louisiana Tech	
November		
1	at UTEP	
8	Marshall	
13	at UTSA	
29	UAB	

2013 RESULTS (1-11, 1-7)

Aug. 31	Texas State	L	15–22
Sept. 7	at Nebraska	L	13–56
Sept. 14	at Arkansas	L	3–24
Sept. 28	at Boise State	L	7–60
Oct. 5	FIU	L	23–24
Oct. 19	at East Carolina	L	14–55
Oct. 26	North Texas	L	14–55
Nov. 2	at Marshall	L	13–61
Nov. 9	at Louisiana Tech	L	13–36
Nov. 16	Florida Atlantic	L	7–41
Nov. 23	Middle Tennessee	L	21–42
Nov. 30	at UAB	W	62–27

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Norman Price, OL, Vicksburg, MS*
2. Walden Davis III, DB, Suwanee, GA
3. Ito Smith, RB, Mobile, AL
4. Jon Michael Edwards, DE, Montgomery, AL
5. Cornell Armstrong, DB, Bassfield, MS
6. Korey Robertson, WR, Greenwood, MS
7. Darin Yancey, LB, Auburn, AL
8. Thomas Collins, OL, Jackson, MS*
9. J.T. Williams, DT, Denton, TX
10. Kyle Foster, WR, Ann Arbor, MI*

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	C-USA	National
Scoring	17.1 ppg	12	117
Rushing	72.9 ypg	13	121
Passing	242.6 ypg	3	54
Total	315.5 ypg	11	114
Defense	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
Scoring	41.9 ppg	12	117
Rushing	224.6 ypg	12	113
Passing	210.9 ypg	5	25
Total	435.5 ypg	11	99
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
-19	-1.6	13	123

OFFENSE Nick Mullens moved into a starting role midway through his freshman season last fall and appears to be coach Todd Monken's quarterback of the present. Mullens ended the season by leading the Golden Eagles to a lopsided victory over UAB that snapped a 23-game losing streak. Mullens should prosper under offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach Chip Lindsey, who came from the Auburn staff and is Mullens' former high school coach. While not blessed with the greatest mobility, Mullens is a heady player with an accurate arm.

The reuniting of Mullens and Lindsey could aid the entire offense. Owners of an anemic running game in 2013 — the Golden Eagles didn't score a rushing touchdown until the seventh game of the season — USM returns running backs Jalen Richard and George Payne. Richard rushed for 324 yards last season after gaining 426 and scoring four touchdowns as a freshman. At 5'8" and 208 pounds, Richard doesn't possess a punishing-type running style, but he's not afraid to carry between the tackles. Payne, 6'0" and 200 pounds, is a bigger, downhill runner.

Sophomore Tyre'oune Holmes averaged only 7.7 yards per reception, but he led the team with 53 catches, 20 more than Markese Triplett. Both Holmes and Triplett should thrive with Mullens entrenched at quarterback. The Golden Eagles also are expecting more from Marquise Ricard, who improved as the season progressed and finished with three TD catches.

STAT CORNER

25

Southern Miss losses in the five-year span between 2007-11. The Golden Eagles have lost 23 games in the last two years.

DEFENSE Seven starters return from a unit that struggled mightily in 2013. But there is reason for Southern Miss to be encouraged.

An experienced secondary will be led by safety Jacorius Cotton, a punishing tackler who missed last season because of academic issues. He has 20 career starts. Senior Emmanuel Johnson, the other safety, has started 15 games and was the team's fourth-leading tackler a year ago. At cornerback, Kalan Reed and Ed Wilkins are returning starters.

The defense also missed the presence of linebacker Alan Howze most of last season after he sustained a season-ending injury in the team's fourth game. Howze was granted a medical redshirt for a second senior season. Justin Penn, a hard-hitting special teams player last year, may push for a starting role at Spur, the hybrid safety/linebacker position.

Up front, yet another key player who missed most of the season returns as Rakeem Nunez-Roches, the team's best defensive tackle, is back from a foot injury he suffered in the team's early-season loss at Nebraska.

SPECIALISTS The kicking game appears set behind Corey Acosta and Tyler Sarrazin. Acosta, a senior, overcame a difficult midseason stretch in which he missed six straight field goals to connect on six of his final eight, including a 50-yarder. Sarrazin averaged nearly 40 yards per punt. Johnson averaged 25.5 yards per kickoff return and, along with Evan Osborne, should give the Golden Eagles a solid duo. Southern Miss returned only 12 punts a year ago but averaged 13.4 yards on those limited opportunities.

FINAL ANALYSIS Perhaps the nightmare is over for Southern Miss. After setting a standard for success in Conference USA, the Golden Eagles went winless in 2012 and lost their first 11 games in 2013. The Mullens-Lindsey combination seems destined to improve the offense, and the return of several key players from injury should bolster the defense. There's a rough non-conference slate, but Monken should have a competitive and relatively experienced squad — as many as 14 freshmen and sophomores starting by season's end — prepared to compete in league play.

MARKESE TRIPLETT

THE QUOTE

"A lot of their best players are really young, so that could help. Weren't great up front. Probably could have won 2-3 more games."

— An opposing C-USA assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	15	James Cox (So.)	5	D.J. Thompson (So.)
WR	**1**	**Tyre'oune Holmes (So.)**	85	Tyler Walker (Fr.)
WR	**23**	**Markese Triplett (Sr.)**	83	Cooper Harrington (Jr.)
WR	6	Marquise Ricard (So.)	12	Jarell Aaron (So.)
LT	**73**	**Rashod Hill (Jr.)**	75	Oliver Bates (So.)
LG	72	Norman Price (Jr.)	68	Brandon Farmer (So.)
C	79	Taylor Peterson (Sr.)	78	Devin Farrior (Fr.)
RG	**63**	**Fred Moore (Sr.)**	55	Thomas Collins (Jr.)
RT	**70**	**Cameron Tom (So.)**	74	Jerry Harris (Fr.)
QB	**9**	**Nick Mullens (So.)**	2	Parker Adamson (Fr.)
RB	**30**	**Jalen Richard (Jr.)**	24	George Payne (So.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	**91**	**Michael Smith (Jr.)**	38	Jerry McCorvey (So.)
DT	97	Rakeem Nunez-Roches (Jr.)	90	Rod Crayton (Fr.)
DT	**49**	**Adam Williams (Sr.)**	46	Wil Freeman (Jr.)
DE	94	Dylan Bradley (So.)	85	Ja'Boree Poole (So.)
LB	**14**	**Terrick Wright (Jr.)**	22	Darian Yancey (Fr.)
LB	37	Alan Howze (Sr.)	40	C.J. Perry (So.)
SPUR	35	Justin Penn (Sr.)	17	David Bertucci (Jr.)
CB	**20**	**Ed Wilkins (Jr.)**	2	Trae Collins (Fr.)
CB	**11**	**Kalan Reed (Jr.)**	7	Jomez Applewhite (Fr.)
FS	**12**	**Emmanuel Johnson (Sr.)**	6	Kelsey Douglas (So.)
SS	28	Jacorius Cotton (Sr.)	**26**	**DeBarriaus Miller (Jr.)**

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	25	Corey Acosta (Sr.)	KR	12	Emmanuel Johnson (Sr.)
P	82	Tyler Sarrazin (So.)	PR	30	Jalen Richard (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Nick Mullens, 276-136-1,776-14, 13 TDs
Rushing: Jalen Richard, 85 att., 324 yds., 0 TDs
Receiving: Tyre'oune Holmes, 53 rec., 410 yds., 2 TDs
Tackles: DeBarriaus Miller, 92
Sacks: Adam Williams, 3.0
Interceptions: 6 players tied with 1

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

AP Photo/Nati Harnik

UTEP MINERS

NATIONAL FORECAST **117**
C-USA WEST PREDICTION **6**

Head Coach: Sean Kugler
Record at School: 2-10 (1 year)
Career Record: 2-10 (1 year)
Offensive Coordinator: Patrick Higgins
Defensive Coordinator: Scott Stoker
El Paso, TX
Sun Bowl (51,500)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 3-9, 2-6 (C-USA)

August	
30	at New Mexico
September	
6	Texas Tech
13	New Mexico State
27	at Kansas State
October	
4	at Louisiana Tech
11	Old Dominion
25	at UTSA
November	
1	Southern Miss
8	at Western Kentucky
15	North Texas
21	at Rice
29	Middle Tennessee

2013 RESULTS (2-10, 1-7)

Sept. 7	New Mexico	(ot)	L	35-42
Sept. 14	at New Mexico State		W	42-21
Sept. 21	UTSA		L	13-32
Sept. 28	at Colorado State		L	42-59
Oct. 5	Louisiana Tech		L	35-38
Oct. 12	Tulsa		L	20-34
Oct. 26	at Rice		L	7-45
Nov. 2	at Texas A&M		L	7-57
Nov. 9	at North Texas		L	7-41
Nov. 16	FIU		W	33-10
Nov. 23	at Tulane		L	3-45
Nov. 30	at Middle Tennessee		L	17-48

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Treyvon Hughes, RB, Carrollton, TX
2. Joseph Kraemer, DL, Kettering, OH
3. Jason Fao, DT, Long Beach, CA
4. David Hamm, RB, Klein, TX
5. Nik Needham, DB, Buena Park, CA
6. Jimmy Musgrave, LB, Victorville, CA*
7. Augie Touris, DE, Buffalo, NY
8. Chris Jones, OL, Corsicana, TX
9. Mookie Carlile, DB, Stephenville, TX
10. Luke Elsner, DE, Seymour, WI

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	C-USA	National
Scoring	21.8 ppg	9	101
Rushing	184.7 ypg	4	46
Passing	163.3 ypg	12	110
Total	347.9 ypg	10	103
Defense	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
Scoring	39.3 ppg	11	115
Rushing	247.8 ypg	13	117
Passing	220.5 ypg	7	49
Total	468.3 ypg	12	107
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**C-USA**	**National**
-6	-0.5	9	97

OFFENSE When UTEP's skill position players were healthy and whole in the first half of the season, the Miners' run-oriented attack was humming.

Most of the key pieces are back, led by quarterback Jameill Showers, who transfered from Texas A&M after finding himself behind Johnny Manziel. Showers played well before separating his shoulder in the seventh game. He completed 57 percent of his passes with 11 touchdowns and four interceptions despite playing behind an offensive line that struggled to protect him.

Showers has to find a new No. 1 receiver after Jordan Leslie, who was on track to make a run at every school receiving record, transferred to BYU. Senior Ian Hamilton is the likely new top target after catching 25 passes a year ago. Malcolm Trail and Jarrad Shaw, along with tight end Eric Tomlinson, will also be a big part of the passing attack.

A Sean Kugler offense, however, starts with the running game, and Aaron Jones returns after a spectacular freshman debut — 90.1 yards per game, first among freshmen nationally — that was cut short by injury after nine games. Senior Nathan Jeffery has been productive when healthy.

The line returns three starters, but they are all changing positions as the Miners look to get bigger. Jerel Watkins and Kyle Brown, athletic but smallish for what UTEP is trying to do in the middle, are moving from guard to tackle, and center Paulo Melendez is moving to guard. UTEP should be 10 pounds heavier per man on the line than it was last year, but this is still the area of concern.

STAT CORNER

18

Freshmen, redshirt freshmen and sophomores on UTEP's end-of-2013 two-deep. The Miners are in a youth movement.

DEFENSE UTEP's been bad on defense for a decade, and last year may have been a new low point. Last spring, the Miners switched to a 3-4 under defensive coordinator Jeff Choate, but he left the program in April. They then made the move to a 4-2-5 under Scott Stoker, who was hired away from Sam Houston State.

They spent most of the fall looking confused. UTEP ranked 12th in Conference USA in total defense (468.3 ypg) and was especially bad against the run. The Miners gave up 6.2 yards per rushing attempt (119th in the nation) and allowed 18 rushes of 30 yards or more. They also tied for last the league with only 13 sacks. There wasn't much that this defense did well.

End Roy Robertson-Harris, perhaps the best athlete on the team, will lead an otherwise young line. The back seven is far more experienced. Linebacker Anthony Puente and several defensive backs with starting experience in last year's revolving door are back, led by corners Adrian James and Ishmael Harrison and safeties Dashone Smith, Devin Cockrell and Wesley Miller.

SPECIALISTS The Miners weren't very good at kicking last year, but they still felt good enough about Jay Mattox (7-of-15 on field goals) that they didn't recruit another placekicker. Punter Mike Ruggles (40.0 yards per attempt) was solid enough, but the star of the special teams is kick returner Autrey Golden, who was among the national leaders in both return average (27.6) and touchdowns (two).

FINAL ANALYSIS As long as the Miners stay healthy at the offensive skill positions, they should score enough points to keep them in most games. That happened for the first part of last season, but they didn't win many games because the defense was so porous.

A combination of a second year in the system and a host of experience in the back seven should lead to improvement on defense, but it will have to be dramatic for UTEP to win six games and challenge for a bowl.

AARON JONES

Ivan Pierre Aguirre

THE QUOTE

"They've got to up the recruiting talent level, which I think they will. They garner a lot of respect, but they just don't have a lot to work with."

– An opposing C-USA assistant coach

OFFENSE (8)

WR	**14**	**Ian Hamilton (Sr.)**	4	Jarrad Shaw (Sr.)
WR	11	Malcolm Trail (Sr.)	6	Brandon Moss (So.)
LT	**69**	**Jerel Watkins (Sr.)**	70	Jerome Daniels (So.)
LG	75	Derek Elmendorff (Fr.)	76	Will Hernandez (Fr.)
C	60	Eric Lee (Jr.)	59	Paulo Melendez (Sr.)
RG	**59**	**Paulo Melendez (Sr.)**	77	Chris Thomas (So.)
RT	**62**	**Kyle Brown (Sr.)**	67	Christian Harper (So.)
TE	**87**	**Eric Tomlinson (Sr.)**	18	Katrae Ford (Sr.)
QB	**1**	**Jameill Showers (Sr.)**	16	Mack Leftwich (So.)
FB	**30**	**Darrin Laufasa (So.)**	23	Josh Bell (Sr.)
RB	29	Aaron Jones (So.)	**25**	**Nathan Jeffery (Sr.)**

DEFENSE (6)

DE	36	Nick Usher (So.)	54	Silas Firstley (So.)
DT	92	Alex Villarreal (Jr.)	90	Maurice Chavis (Sr.)
DT	53	Gino Bresolin (So.)	95	Devante Richardson (So.)
DE	**43**	**Roy Robertson-Harris (Jr.)**	97	Brian Madunezim (So.)
MLB	**34**	**Anthony Puente (Sr.)**	10	Jimmy Musgrave (Jr.)
WLB	35	Trey Brown (Jr.)	16	Alvin Jones (Fr.)
CB	**1**	**Adrian James (Sr.)**	19	Ricky Williams (Fr.)
CB	**2**	**Ishmael Harrison (Jr.)**	26	Da'Carlos Renfro (Jr.)
FS	**21**	**Dashone Smith (So.)**	5	Leon Hayes (So.)
SS	**27**	**Devin Cockrell (So.)**	32	LaQuintus Dowell (Jr.)
WS	13	Wesley Miller (Sr.)	22	Jameel Erving (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	47	Jay Mattox (So.)	**KR**	8	Autrey Golden (Jr.)
P	96	Mike Ruggles (So.)	**PR**	4	Jarred Shaw (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Jameill Showers, 188-107-1,263-4, 11 TDs
Rushing: Aaron Jones, 155 att., 811 yds., 4 TDs
Receiving: Eric Tomlinson 30 rec., 304 yds, 1 TD
Tackles: Devin Cockrell, 76
Sacks: Roy Robertson-Harris, 3.5
Interceptions: Dashone Smith, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

UTSA ROADRUNNERS

NATIONAL FORECAST **89**
C-USA WEST PREDICTION **3**

Head Coach: Larry Coker
Record at School: 19-15 (3 years)
Career Record: 79-30 (9 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Kevin Brown
Defensive Coordinator: Neal Neathery
San Antonio, TX
Alamodome (65,000)

2014 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 7-5, 6-2 (C-USA)

August	
29	at Houston
September	
4	Arizona
13	at Oklahoma State
27	at Florida Atlantic
October	
4	New Mexico
11	FIU
18	at Louisiana Tech
25	UTEP
November	
8	at Rice
13	Southern Miss
22	at Western Kentucky

2013 RESULTS (7-5, 6-2)

Aug. 31	at New Mexico	W	21-13
Sept. 7	Oklahoma State	L	35-56
Sept. 14	at Arizona	L	13-38
Sept. 21	at UTEP	W	32-13
Sept. 28	Houston	L	28-59
Oct. 5	at Marshall	L	10-34
Oct. 12	Rice	L	21-27
Oct. 26	UAB	W	52-31
Nov. 2	at Tulsa	W	34-15
Nov. 9	Tulane	W	10-7
Nov. 23	at North Texas	W	21-13
Nov. 30	Louisiana Tech	W	30-10

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Blake Bogenschutz, QB, Carthage, TX
2. David Anzaldua, OT, Edinburg, TX
3. Kerry Thomas, WR, College Station, TX
4. Nate Gaines, S, Mesquite, TX
5. Cameron Oliver, TE, Owasso, OK
6. Triston Crossland, HB, Corpus Christi, TX
7. Marcus Davenport, DE, San Antonio, TX
8. Kevin Strong, DT, Cleveland, TX
9. Isaiah Santos, S, Spring, TX
10. Stanley Dye, CB, Orange Park, FL

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	C-USA
Scoring	25.6 ppg	8
Rushing	175.4 ypg	8
Passing	242.4 ypg	4
Total	417.8 ypg	3
Defense	**Per Game**	**C-USA**
Scoring	26.3 ppg	8
Rushing	143.1 ypg	4
Passing	233.3 ypg	12
Total	376.3 ypg	7
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**C-USA**
-7	-0.58	11

OFFENSE UTSA has a boatload of experience coming back on the offensive line and a running back capable of a 1,000-yard season, so it makes sense to assume that the Roadrunners will likely run more than they throw for the second straight season.

One of the two positions that does not return a starter is quarterback, another reason why the Roadrunners will emphasize the run. Senior Tucker Carter takes over for the departed Eric Soza, who was a talented red zone runner (seven TDs) and adequate passer (12 TDs, 11 INTs). Carter has a bigger arm and is less mobile, but the scheme should remain the same.

The featured back should be David Glasco II, who led the team with 496 yards (on 5.2 yards per carry) and five TDs as a junior while missing two games due to injury and splitting the ball-carrying duties. Should the Roadrunners go with a rotation at tailback, look for sophomore Jarveon Williams to get the call (4.5 ypc in limited duty in '13).

Keep an eye on Kam Jones, the team's most athletic wideout. Jones will see his share of action as a Wildcat quarterback, especially with Carter being more of a pass-first QB. Jones leads the list of UTSA's top 10 pass-catchers who return in 2013.

The line welcomes back all five starters, three of whom have been starting for three straight years. Guard Scott Inskeep is the player in this group who will grab the attention of NFL scouts.

STAT CORNER

6

Rushing plays of 20 yards or more allowed by the UTSA defense in 2013. Only Wisconsin (four) and Alabama (five) allowed fewer.

DEFENSE Nine starters return to a defense that held its opponents to an average of 11.3 points over the final four games. Four seniors man the defensive line, including a pair of former Big 12 signees. Defensive tackle Ashaad Mabry (6'3", 315), who originally signed with Oklahoma State, will compete for all-conference honors. Baylor transfer Robert Singletary led the team in sacks (5.0, tied with Codie Brooks) and hurries and seems primed for a big year.

At linebacker, Drew Douglas returns, but second-leading tackler Steven Kurfehs needs to be replaced in UTSA's 4-2-5 alignment. Jens Jeters should get first crack at Kurfehs' spot, although he will be pushed by Blake Terry, who originally committed to Kentucky. The Roadrunners may utilize all three players in a rotation format for the two spots.

There won't be a rotation at safety, where Triston Wade and Nic Johnston will start for their third seasons. Both players are disruptive forces, with Wade leading the team in tackles and interceptions. Oklahoma transfer Bennett Okotcha is the team's best shutdown corner.

SPECIALISTS Punter Kristian Stern and kicker Sean Ianno both return. UTSA was 90th in net punting last year, while Ianno was 9-of-11 inside 40 and 2-of-8 beyond 40 despite playing seven games indoors. Jones is a dangerous kick returner, but he never shook loose for a long one in 2013.

FINAL ANALYSIS UTSA's rise in its first three seasons as a football program has been remarkable. The Roadrunners have gone from not having a team to being a legitimate threat to reach the Conference USA Championship Game in just four years. This is a senior-laden squad with experience at every position except quarterback, and this group has been building toward the 2014 season, since it's the first year that the program is eligible to participate in a bowl game.

Coach Larry Coker has built his team primarily from the Texas high schools, especially the San Antonio area, which is home to almost 30 players on the current roster. The transitional phase to the FBS has been smoother than expected, and now comes a new hurdle for this very new program — expectations.

TRISTON WADE

THE QUOTE

"They were one of the most complete teams we played last year. San Antonio is a tough place to play."

— An opposing C-USA assistant coach

OFFENSE (8)

WR	**1**	**Kam Jones (Sr.)**	9	Marcellus Mack (Sr.)
WR	**84**	**Brandon Freeman (Sr.)**	81	Kenny Bias (Jr.)
LT	**68**	**Cody Harris (Sr.)**	71	Cody Cole (So.)
LG	**79**	**Scott Inskeep (Sr.)**	66	Zach Hester (Jr.)
C	**55**	**Nate Leonard (Sr.)**	63	Will Cavanaugh (Jr.)
RG	**63**	**Will Cavanaugh (Jr.)**	51	Payton Rion (Sr.)
RT	**76**	**Josh Walker (Sr.)**	70	Jordan Gray (Jr.)
TE	83	Cole Hubble (Sr.)	82	David Morgan II (Jr.)
QB	6	Tucker Carter (Sr.)	3	Austin Robinson (Fr.)
FB	27	Nate Shaw (Sr.)	44	Treston Coleman (So.)
RB	**11**	**David Glasco II (Sr.)**	2	Jarveon Williams (So.)

DEFENSE (9)

DE	**43**	**Cody Rogers (Sr.)**	96	Jason Neill (Jr.)
DT	**97**	**Ashaad Mabry (Sr.)**	91	Brian Price (Jr.)
DT	**61**	**Richard Burge (Sr.)**	58	Ferrington Macon (Sr.)
DE	50	Robert Singletary (Sr.)	94	Codie Brooks (So.)
LB	**32**	**Drew Douglas (Jr.)**	52	Blake Terry (Sr.)
LB	42	Jens Jeters (Sr.)	56	Dalton Miller (So.)
CB	**4**	**Crosby Adams III (Sr.)**	20	Andre Brown (Sr.)
CB	**21**	**Bennett Okotcha (Jr.)**	24	Darrien Starling (Sr.)
FS	**7**	**Triston Wade (Sr.)**	23	Tevin Broussard (Sr.)
S	**22**	**Nic Johnston (Sr.)**	8	Mark Egwuagu (So.)
S	33	Chase Dahlquist (So.)	**10**	**Brian King (Sr.)**

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	92	Sean Ianno (Sr.)	**KR**	1	Kam Jones (Sr.)
P	38	Kristian Stern (Sr.)	**PR**	18	Kenny Harrison (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Tucker Carter, 33-23-190-2, 1 TDs
Rushing: David Glasco II, 95 att., 496 yds., 5 TDs
Receiving: Kam Jones, 34 rec., 345 yds., 1 TDs
Tackles: Triston Wade, 94
Sacks: Codie Brooks, 5; Robert Singletary, 5
Interceptions: Triston Wade, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Jeff Huehn/UTSA Athletics

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MAC PREVIEW

TRAVIS GREENE, BOWLING GREEN

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

EAST

1. BOWLING GREEN **FALCONS** 11-2, 8-0 MAC
2. OHIO **BOBCATS** 7-5, 5-3 MAC
3. AKRON **ZIPS** 6-6, 5-3 MAC
4. BUFFALO **BULLS** 6-6, 4-4 MAC
5. KENT STATE **GOLDEN FLASHES** 4-8, 3-5 MAC
6. MIAMI (OHIO) **REDHAWKS** 3-9, 2-6 MAC
7. UMASS **MINUTEMEN** 2-10, 2-6 MAC

WEST

1. TOLEDO **ROCKETS** 7-6, 6-2 MAC
2. NORTHERN ILLINOIS **HUSKIES** 8-4, 6-2 MAC
3. BALL STATE **CARDINALS** 8-4, 5-3 MAC
4. CENTRAL MICHIGAN **CHIPPEWAS** 5-7, 4-4 MAC
5. WESTERN MICHIGAN **BRONCOS** 3-9, 1-7 MAC
6. EASTERN MICHIGAN **EAGLES** 2-10, 1-7 MAC

MAC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME: BOWLING GREEN OVER TOLEDO

2014 UNIT RANKINGS

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
AKRON	2	6	6	8	5	4	10
BALL STATE	5	4	5	7	7	5	6
BOWLING GREEN	1	3	3	5	4	1	3
BUFFALO	4	9	11	3	8	7	7
CENTRAL MICHIGAN	3	7	4	4	6	8	8
EASTERN MICHIGAN	9	5	9	6	11	13	13
KENT STATE	8	8	12	10	9	11	11
MIAMI	13	13	10	13	10	6	9
NORTHERN ILLINOIS	10	2	1	2	3	3	4
OHIO	7	10	8	9	1	9	2
TOLEDO	6	1	2	1	2	2	5
UMASS	12	12	13	12	13	10	12
WESTERN MICHIGAN	11	11	7	11	12	12	1

Green: Bowling Green SID; Lewis: Scott Walstrom/NIU Media Services

2013 MAC STANDINGS

EAST	MAC	OVERALL
BOWLING GREEN	7-1	10-4
BUFFALO	6-2	8-5
OHIO	4-4	7-6
AKRON	4-4	5-7
KENT STATE	3-5	4-8
UMASS	1-7	1-11
MIAMI (OHIO)	0-8	0-12

WEST	MAC	OVERALL
NORTHERN ILLINOIS	8-0	12-2
BALL STATE	7-1	10-3
TOLEDO	5-3	7-5
CENTRAL MICHIGAN	5-3	6-6
EASTERN MICHIGAN	1-7	2-10
WESTERN MICHIGAN	1-7	1-11

TOMMYLEE LEWIS, NORTHERN ILLINOIS

2014 MAC BOWL PROJECTIONS

GoDaddy Bowl Bowling Green vs. South Alabama
Camellia Bowl Toledo vs. Arkansas State
Boca Raton Bowl Northern Illinois vs. Florida Atlantic
Famous Idaho Potato Bowl Ball State vs. Nevada
Bahamas Bowl Ohio vs. Middle Tennessee

2013 MAC BOWL RESULTS

Famous Idaho Potato Bowl San Diego State 49, Buffalo 24
Beef 'O'Brady's Bowl East Carolina 37, Ohio 20
Little Caesars Pizza Bowl Pittsburgh 30, Bowling Green 27
Poinsettia Bowl Utah State 21, Northern Illinois 14
GoDaddy Bowl Arkansas State 23, Ball State 20

RECRUITING BY SCHOOL

1. Western Michigan 2. Toledo 3. Buffalo 4. Northern Illinois 5. Bowling Green 6. Ball State 7. Ohio 8. UMass 9. Akron 10. Central Michigan 11. Miami 12. Kent State 13. Eastern Michigan

PRESEASON ALL-MAC TEAM

FIRST-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	MATT JOHNSON	6-0	225	Jr.	Bowling Green
RB	KAREEM HUNT	5-11	220	So.	Toledo
RB	TRAVIS GREENE	5-10	181	Jr.	Bowling Green
WR	TITUS DAVIS	6-2	190	Sr.	Central Michigan
WR	ALONZO RUSSELL	6-4	190	Sr.	Toledo
TE	TYREESE RUSSELL	6-3	242	Sr.	Eastern Michigan
C	JACOB RICHARD	6-1	275	Jr.	Ball State
G	GREG MANCZ	6-5	300	Sr.	Toledo
G	ANDY PHILLIPS	6-3	306	Sr.	Central Michigan
T	TYLER LOOS	6-5	303	Sr.	Northern Illinois
T	LINCOLN HANSEN	6-6	301	Sr.	Eastern Michigan

FIRST-TEAM DEFENSE

DE	TARELL BASHAM	6-4	250	So.	Ohio
DE	JASON MEEHAN	6-1	250	Sr.	Northern Illinois
DT	ANTWAN CRUTCHER	6-2	304	Sr.	Ohio
DT	TREYVON HESTER	6-3	290	So.	Toledo
LB	JAMAAL BASS	5-10	220	Sr.	Northern Illinois
LB	JUNIOR SYLVESTRE	6-0	222	Sr.	Toledo
LB	JATAVIS BROWN	5-11	212	Jr.	Akron
CB	DEVIN BASS	5-9	180	Jr.	Ohio
CB	DONALD CELISCAR	5-11	183	Sr.	Western Michigan
S	RYLAND WARD	5-10	206	Sr.	Bowling Green
S	DECHANE DURANTE	6-2	197	Sr.	Northern Illinois

FIRST-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	JEREMIAH DETMER	5-8	170	Sr.	Toledo
P	ZACH PAUL	6-3	221	Jr.	Akron
KR	DEVIN CAMPBELL	5-11	205	Jr.	Buffalo
PR	RYAN BURBRINK	5-8	188	Jr.	Bowling Green

SECOND-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	KYLE POHL	6-3	213	Jr.	Akron
RB	JAHWAN EDWARDS	5-10	219	Sr.	Ball State
RB	JAWON CHISHOLM	6-1	206	Sr.	Akron
WR	COREY DAVIS	6-2	205	So.	Western Michigan
WR	TOMMYLEE LEWIS	5-7	155	Sr.	Northern Illinois
WR	JORDAN WILLIAMS	6-2	224	Jr.	Ball State
C	ALEX HUETTEL	6-3	292	Jr.	Bowling Green
G	ANDRE DAVIS	6-4	320	Sr.	Buffalo
G	JEFF MYERS	6-3	290	Sr.	Toledo
T	WILLIE BEAVERS	6-4	309	Jr.	Western Michigan
T	JOSH HENDERSHOT	6-4	285	Sr.	Toledo

SECOND-TEAM DEFENSE

DE	BRYSON ALBRIGHT	6-5	224	Jr.	Miami
DE	NICK MILES	6-2	250	Sr.	Ball State
DT	NATE TERHUNE	6-4	270	Jr.	Kent State
DT	LETERRIUS WALTON	6-5	323	Sr.	Central Michigan
LB	BEN INGLE	6-0	224	Jr.	Ball State
LB	KENT KERN	6-1	229	Jr.	Miami
LB	GABE MARTIN	6-1	229	Sr.	Bowling Green
CB	HEATH HARDING	5-10	178	So.	Miami
CB	CHEATHAM NORRILS	6-0	195	Sr.	Toledo
S	JORDAN ITALIANO	5-10	207	Jr.	Kent State
S	JUSTIN CURRIE	6-2	204	Sr.	Western Michigan

SECOND-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	SCOTT SECOR	5-8	158	Sr.	Ball State
P	ANTHONY MELCHIORI	5-11	186	Jr.	Kent State
KR	TREY DUDLEY-GILES	5-11	185	Jr.	UMass
PR	TREY DUDLEY-GILES	5-11	185	Jr.	UMass

AKRON ZIPS

NATIONAL FORECAST **97**
MAC EAST PREDICTION **3**

Head Coach: Terry Bowden
Record at School: 6-18 (2 years)
Career Record: 146-80-2 (20 years)
Offensive Coordinator: A.J. Milwee
Defensive Coordinator: Chuck Amato
Akron, OH
InfoCision Stadium (30,000)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 6-6, 5-3 (MAC)

August	
28	Howard
September	
6	at Penn State
20	Marshall
27	at Pittsburgh
October	
4	Eastern Michigan
11	Miami (Ohio)
18	at Ohio
25	at Ball State
November	
4	Bowling Green
11	at Buffalo
18	Massachusetts
25	at Kent State

2013 RESULTS (5-7, 4-4)

Aug. 29	at UCF	L	7–38
Sept. 7	James Madison	W	35–33
Sept. 14	at Michigan	L	24–28
Sept. 21	UL Lafayette	L	30–35
Sept. 28	at Bowling Green	L	14–31
Oct. 5	Ohio	L	3–43
Oct. 12	at Northern Illinois	L	20–27
Oct. 19	at Miami (Ohio)	W	24–17
Oct. 26	Ball State	L	24–42
Nov. 2	Kent State	W	16–7
Nov. 16	at Massachusetts	W	14–13
Nov. 29	Toledo	W	31–29

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Anthony Clark, DT, Akron, OH
2. Chandler Kincade, QB, Beaver Falls, PA
3. Brock Boxen, DT, New Galile, PA
4. Jamal Baggett, DB, Oak Park, IL
5. Scott Boyett, OT, Dania, FL*
6. Kris Givens, DB, Ridgeland, MS*
7. Newman Williams, LB, Akron, OH
8. Travonte Junius, LB, Akron, OH
9. Jason Williams, DB, Hialeah, FL
10. Kyron Brown, DB, Boynton Beach, FL

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MAC	National
Scoring	20.2 ppg	9	108
Rushing	122.6 ypg	11	106
Passing	219.4 ypg	6	75
Total	342.0 ypg	8	106
Defense	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
Scoring	28.6 ppg	7	73
Rushing	164.1 ypg	3	63
Passing	232.9 ypg	9	67
Total	397.0 ypg	3	59
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
-2	-0.2	7	74

OFFENSE With a bevy of playmakers returning, the Zips have the potential to field one of the best offenses in the conference. The definitive word here is "potential," because those skill players must improve if Akron is to avoid its ninth consecutive losing record.

Junior quarterback Kyle Pohl is back for his second year as a starter, but he must do better than 14 touchdowns, 10 interceptions and a 56 percent completion rate. His running mate is senior tailback Jawon Chisholm, who has led the team in rushing for three consecutive years but has never reached the 1,000-yard plateau.

Pohl will throw to a group of experienced receivers, including junior Zach D'Orazio (team-high 42 catches for 567 yards) and 5'6" sophomore speedster Fransohn Bickley (39 catches for 407 yards). A breakout season by some of the talented young receivers, especially highly touted sophomore Mykel Traylor-Bennett, would make Akron even more dangerous.

Of course, much will depend on the play of the line, which has been a problem area in recent years. Third-year coach Terry Bowden and his staff have concentrated on adding depth to the line in recruiting, and there are signs that the emphasis has paid off. Center Travis Switzer and guard Dylan Brumbaugh head the list of returnees, but the other three spots will be handled by former reserves or incoming recruits.

STAT CORNER

6

Games won by Akron from 2009 to 2012. The Zips won five in 2013 alone, powered by an exciting defense that forced 27 turnovers and ranked third in the MAC overall and against the run.

DEFENSE The Zips showed vast improvement here, jumping from No. 99 nationally in 2012 to No. 59 in 2013, but they are facing major rebuilding jobs on the front line and the secondary. The only returning starter up front is nose guard Cody Grice. There are plenty of candidates to fill the holes, but they are of unknown quality. A key player here is end Se'Von Pittman, who must put his troubled past at Ohio State behind him.

Both starting cornerbacks will be new, but at least safeties Devonte Morgan, Johnny Robinson and Bre' Ford are veterans.

The linebacking corps is led by the strong duo of Jatavis Brown (No. 1 in tackles with 107) and Justin March (No. 2 with 80).

If the likes of Pittman, corner Bryce Cheek and linebackers C.J. Mizell and Dylan Evans, among many others, can fill holes, the defense may be a viable complement to the offense.

SPECIALISTS The Zips kicked the ball capably last season, with returning placekicker Robert Stein and returning punter Zach Paul. But the return teams were abysmal, ranking 111th nationally on kickoff returns and 117th on punt returns. The hope is that the diminutive Bickley can give both areas a major boost.

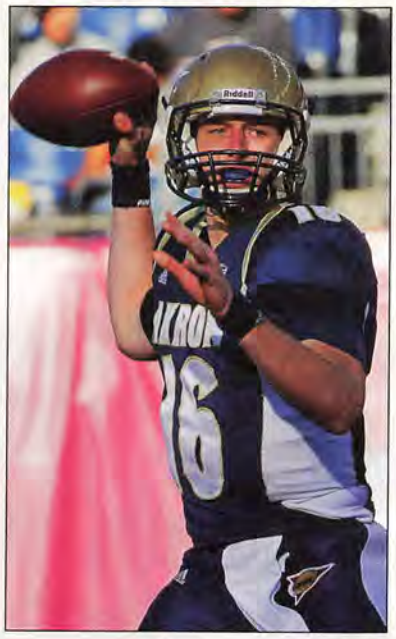
FINAL ANALYSIS Akron made major strides last season with a 5–7 record after winning only six games total in the previous four seasons. A winning season is possible if enough players turn potential into productivity. It helps that the league schedule seems more forgiving than in the recent past.

The offense needs Pohl to make better decisions and be more consistent than he was in 2013. The receiving corps may have put up some decent numbers, but there were far too many drops. A senior-style performance from Chisholm would take some pressure off the passing game.

Defensively, veteran coordinator Chuck Amato believes that question marks can be turned into exclamation points.

The feeling around the conference is that the Zips are finally going to have a team befitting the beautiful InfoCision Stadium. The university must feel the same way, because Bowden was awarded a new two-year contract extension through 2018.

Bowden has built from the bottom, filled pieces slowly but surely and has a team that might be a surprise.



KYLE POHL

THE QUOTE

"They have had some really good transfers come in under this staff. .... They have some talented, physical guys."

— An opposing MAC assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	**11**	**Zach D'Orazio (Jr.)**	1	Mykel Traylor-Bennett (So.)
WR	3	L.T. Smith (Sr.)	81	Tyrell Goodman (Jr.)
WR	**24**	**Fransohn Bickley (So.)**	12	Imani Davis (Jr.)
LT	56	Isaiah Williams (Sr.)	62	Rodney Carroll (Fr.)
LG	**75**	**Dylan Brumbaugh (Jr.)**	70	Michael Casimos (Fr.)
C	**67**	**Travis Switzer (Sr.)**	73	Brett Lee (Jr.)
RG	50	Joe McNamara (Sr.)	77	Andrew Bohan (Jr.)
RT	71	Quaison Osborne (Jr.)	74	Cedric Brittnum (Sr.)
TE	84	Jerome Lewis (Sr.)	87	Anthony Ritossa (Sr.)
QB	**16**	**Kyle Pohl (Jr.)**	15	Nick Hirschman (Sr.)
RB	**7**	**Jawon Chisholm (Sr.)**	34	Conor Hundley (Jr.)

DEFENSE (4)

DE	96	Alfonso Horner (Jr.)	2	Se'Von Pittman (So.)
DT	8	Keontae Hollis (Sr.)		Anthony Clark (Fr.)
NG	**36**	**Cody Grice (Jr.)**	95	Darius Copeland (So.)
DE	11	Nordly Capi (Sr.)	99	Nmesoma Okafor (Sr.)
OLB	**5**	**Justin March (Sr.)**	54	Dylan Evans (Jr.)
MLB	51	C.J. Mizell (Sr.)	59	John Rachal (So.)
OLB	**53**	**Jatavis Brown (Jr.)**	52	Jon Shelby (Sr.)
CB	29	Bryce Cheek (Jr.)	27	Mikee Hayes (Fr.)
CB	6	DeAndre Scott (So.)		Kris Givens (Jr.)
SS	**4**	**Johnny Robinson (Sr.)**	26	Devonte Morgan (Sr.)
FS	23	Bre' Ford (Sr.)	41	Zach Guiser (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	48	Robert Stein (Jr.)	**KR**	24	Fransohn Bickley (So.)
P	38	Zach Paul (Jr.)	**PR**	12	Imani Davis (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Kyle Pohl, 402-225-2,438-10, 14 TDs
Rushing: Jawon Chisholm, 189 att., 869 yds., 8 TDs
Receiving: Zach D'Orazio, 42 rec., 567 yds., 4 TDs
Tackles: Jatavis Brown, 107
Sacks: Cody Grice, 2.5
Interceptions: Justin March, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

AP Photo/Stephan Savoia

BOWLING GREEN FALCONS

NATIONAL FORECAST **59**
MAC EAST PREDICTION **1**

Head Coach: Dino Babers
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: 19-7 (2 years)
Co-Offensive Coordinators: Sterlin Gilbert, Matt Mattox
Defensive Coordinator: Kim McCloud
Bowling Green, OH
Doyt Perry Stadium (24,000)

2014 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 11-2, 8-0 (MAC)

August	
29	at Western Kentucky
September	
6	VMI
13	Indiana
20	at Wisconsin
27	at Massachusetts
October	
4	Buffalo
11	at Ohio
18	Western Michigan
November	
4	at Akron
12	Kent State
19	at Toledo
28	Ball State

2013 RESULTS (10-4, 7-1)

Aug. 29	Tulsa	W	34-7
Sept. 7	at Kent State	W	41-22
Sept. 14	at Indiana	L	10-42
Sept. 21	Murray State	W	48-7
Sept. 28	Akron	W	31-14
Oct. 5	Massachusetts	W	28-7
Oct. 12	at Mississippi State	L	20-21
Oct. 26	Toledo	L	25-28
Nov. 5	at Miami (Ohio)	W	45-3
Nov. 12	Ohio	W	49-0
Nov. 23	at Eastern Michigan	W	58-7
Nov. 29	at Buffalo	W	24-7
Dec. 6	vs. Northern Illinois %	W	47-27
Dec. 26	vs. Pittsburgh #	L	27-30

%Detroit #Little Caesars Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Nilijah Ballew, DB, Cincinnati, OH
2. Cody Callaway, QB, Grafton, OH
3. Clint Stephens, WR, West Palm Beach, FL
4. Jack Walz III, DB, Lakewood, OH
5. Jalen Dingle, LB, Detroit, MI
6. Griff Saunders, LB, Columbus, OH
7. Cody Callaway, QB, Grafton, OH
8. Nick Johnson, DB, Canton, OH
9. DeAngelo Ware, OL, Cleveland Heights, OH
10. Trevahn Beery, DB, Creston, OH

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MAC	National
Scoring	34.8 ppg	3	28
Rushing	193.4 ypg	3	39
Passing	266.1 ypg	2	31
Total	459.4 ypg	3	29
Defense	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
Scoring	15.9 ppg	1	5
Rushing	150.6 ypg	1	46
Passing	170.9 ypg	2	6
Total	321.4 ypg	1	10
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
+10	+0.7	4	19

OFFENSE Things went from chaotic to frenetic to simply hectic as Bowling Green spent the spring adjusting to the ultra high-speed attack preferred by head coach Dino Babers.

Junior quarterback Matt Johnson, who started every game but the opener in Bowling Green's MAC championship season last year, expects to improve on his 3,467 passing yards and 25 touchdowns since the Babers offense will provide more plays.

Running back Travis Greene rushed for a school-record 1,594 yards last season — breaking a mark that had stood for more than 60 years — while recording nine games of more than 100 yards. The junior is firmly entrenched as the workhorse back. Powerful 262-pound sophomore William Houston provides additional punch in the running game.

Most of the receiving corps is back, led by senior Heath Jackson, junior Ryan Burbrink and sophomore Ronnie Moore. Burbrink has big-play potential after catching 30 passes for 477 yards and two touchdowns last season, including a 92-yard scoring grab. SMU transfer Gehrig Dieter is eligible after sitting out 2013 and, along with early enrollee freshman Roger Lewis, is expected to press for playing time. Senior Chris Pohlman steps in at tight end after catching just four passes in 2013.

The line needs only a slight tweak with three starters back from the conference championship unit. Junior Alex Huettel, who moves from guard to center, anchors the group as a returning second-team All-MAC performer, and sophomore tackles Logan Dietz and Jacob Bennett are also returning starters.

STAT CORNER

+8.2

The Falcons' starting field position margin in conference play. Only Toledo (+6.3) came within three yards of that differential.

DEFENSE Bowling Green had the top-ranked scoring defense in the MAC last season, allowing a meager 15.9 points per game. Seven times, the Falcons held their opponent to seven points or less. They were also No. 1 in total defense (321.4 ypg) and rushing defense (150.6 ypg).

New personnel will have to be called on to maintain that excellence. The interior of the line will feature two new starters, but junior Taylor Royster and senior Zach Colvin both have plenty of experience. Senior ends Bryan Thomas and Charlie Walker combined to start 22 games last season. At linebacker, seniors D.J. Lynch and Gabe Martin are battle-tested on the outside, while redshirt freshman Nate Locke is pushing senior Paul Senn in the middle.

The secondary, the best in the MAC last season, gets the most severe overhaul — senior free safety Ryland Ward is the sole starter back. Senior Jude Adjei-Barimah and junior Darrell Hunter are the likely starters at the corners, and senior Brian Sutton is the top candidate at strong safety.

SPECIALISTS The placekicking game will be a strength again. Tyler Tate converted 18-of-22 field goals, including 6-of-8 from beyond 40 yards. Joe Davidson inherits the punting job coming off a redshirt season. The Falcons led the conference in both kickoff returns and punt returns, and should be explosive again with Burbrink and Moore leading the way.

FINAL ANALYSIS Immediately after winning its first conference championship in 21 years, Bowling Green lost coach Dave Clawson to Wake Forest. The Falcons recovered quickly, landing Babers after he led Eastern Illinois to a No. 4 final ranking in the FCS — and did so with the division's No. 1 total offense (589.5 ypg) and scoring offense (48.2 ppg). Babers and his staff — most of which followed him from EIU — changed some things that weren't necessarily broken, and Bowling Green will be a different animal this fall as Babers unleashes his dizzying pace on offense. The defense has more holes to fill, but there is enough returning talent to make the Falcons the heavy favorite in the MAC East.

TRAVIS GREENE

THE QUOTE

"They went from one of the worst offenses in the league to one of the best in a short amount of time. A lot of that was the quarterback."

— An opposing MAC assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	17	Ryan Burbrink (Jr.)	6	Chris Gallon (Jr.)
WR	5	Ronnie Moore (So.)	15	Gehrig Dieter (So.)
WR	85	Heath Jackson (Sr.)	10	Herve Coby (Jr.)
LT	**67**	**Jacob Bennett (So.)**	74	Christian Piazza (Jr.)
LG	72	Ben Steward (So.)	59	Darion Delaney (Sr.)
C	**55**	**Alex Huettel (Jr.)**	71	Tim McAuliffe (Fr.)
RG	68	Ryan Hunter (Fr.)	77	J.J. Beggan (So.)
RT	**53**	**Logan Dietz (So.)**	75	Clay Rolf (Sr.)
TE	42	Chris Pohlman (Sr.)	88	Hunter Folkertsma (Fr.)
QB	**11**	**Matt Johnson (Jr.)**	3	James Knapke (So.)
RB	**13**	**Travis Greene (Jr.)**	32	William Houston (So.)

DEFENSE (5)

DE	**43**	**Bryan Thomas (Sr.)**	88	Kendall Montgomery (Sr.)
NG	51	Taylor Royster (Jr.)	50	Izaah Lunsford (So.)
DT	92	Zach Colvin (Sr.)	45	Jhalil-Nashid Croley (So.)
DE	**46**	**Charlie Walker (Sr.)**	99	Bryan Baird (Jr.)
WLB	**7**	**D.J. Lynch (Sr.)**	28	Coy Brown III (Jr.)
MLB	27	Nate Locke (Fr.)	30	Paul Senn (Sr.)
SLB	**11**	**Gabe Martin (Sr.)**	47	Aaron Banks (Fr.)
CB	14	Jude Adjei-Barimah (Sr.)	13	Nick Johnson (Fr.)
CB	1	Darrell Hunter (Jr.)	21	Will Watson (Jr.)
FS	**15**	**Ryland Ward (Sr.)**	18	Omar Pierre-Louis (Fr.)
SS	3	Brian Sutton (Sr.)	9	Isaiah Gourdine (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	98	Tyler Tate (Jr.)	KR	5	Ronnie Moore (So.)
P	49	Joe Davidson (Fr.)	PR	17	Ryan Burbrink (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Matt Johnson, 369-237-3,467-7, 25 TDs
Rushing: Travis Greene, 279 att., 1,594 yds., 11 TDs
Receiving: Heath Jackson, 32 rec., 364 yds., 3 TDs
Tackles: D.J. Lynch, 85
Sacks: Taylor Royster, 3.5
Interceptions: Ryland Ward, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

BGSU Athletic Communications

BUFFALO BULLS

NATIONAL FORECAST **104**
MAC EAST PREDICTION **4**

Head Coach: Jeff Quinn
Record at School: 17-32 (4 years)
Career Record: 18-33 (4+ years)
Offensive Coordinator: Alex Wood
Defensive Coordinator: Lou Tepper
Buffalo, NY
UB Stadium (29,013)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 6-6, 4-4 (MAC)

August	
30	Duquesne
September	
6	at Army
12	Baylor
20	Norfolk State
27	Miami (Ohio)
October	
4	at Bowling Green
11	at Eastern Michigan
25	Central Michigan
November	
5	at Ohio
11	Akron
19	Kent State
28	at Massachusetts

2013 RESULTS (8-5, 6-2)

Aug. 31	at Ohio State	L	20-40
Sept. 7	at Baylor	L	13-70
Sept. 14	Stony Brook (ot)	W	26-23
Sept. 28	Connecticut	W	41-12
Oct. 5	Eastern Michigan	W	42-14
Oct. 12	at Western Michigan	W	33-0
Oct. 19	Massachusetts	W	32-3
Oct. 26	at Kent State	W	41-21
Nov. 5	Ohio	W	30-3
Nov. 12	at Toledo	L	41-51
Nov. 19	at Miami (Ohio)	W	44-7
Nov. 29	Bowling Green	L	7-24
Dec. 21	vs. San Diego State #	L	24-49

#Idaho Potato Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Will White, LB, Detroit, MI
2. Gary Hosey, LB, Detroit, MI
3. Corey Henderson, LB, King George, VA
4. Chris Merchant, QB, Calgary, AB
5. Juwan Jackson, DB, Newark, NJ
6. Terrance Wilson, CB, Buford, GA
7. Ryan Williamson, DB, Cincinnati, OH
8. Andy Fidler, OL, Port Washington, WI
9. Randy Anyanwu, DE, Lovejoy, GA
10. Brandon Williams, DB, Lovejoy, GA

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MAC	National
Scoring	30.3 ppg	5	54
Rushing	167.4 ypg	5	67
Passing	227.3 ypg	4	68
Total	394.7 ypg	5	77
Defense	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
Scoring	24.4 ppg	2	40
Rushing	166.6 ypg	4	67
Passing	216.2 ypg	5	38
Total	382.8 ypg	2	49
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
+14	1.1	1	6

OFFENSE The Bulls lost two of the most productive players in school history in tailback Branden Oliver and wide receiver Alex Neutz but return junior quarterback Joe Licata. A local product, Licata threw for 2,824 yards and 24 touchdowns — one shy of the single-season school record — while completing 58 percent of his passes. Licata missed spring practice while recovering from hip surgery, which allowed backup Tony Daniel to get the majority of the snaps.

With Oliver gone, junior Anthone Taylor, who rushed for 399 yards and three touchdowns, becomes the centerpiece of the running game. Junior Devin Campbell moves from slot receiver back to his natural position at tailback, where he provides breakaway speed. He'll be pushed by sophomore Jordan Johnson, a bruising back who has been slowed by injuries.

Offensive coordinator Alex Wood wants to feature more players in the passing game, so there will be opportunities for some fresh faces at wide receiver. Sophomore Boise Ross is a blur and has the ability to be a quality playmaker after showing flashes as a true freshman. The Bulls hope Devon Hughes rebounds and enjoys a strong senior season, similar to Fred Lee last year.

Licata will be well protected with all five starters returning from an offensive line that is arguably the best in the MAC. The unit is anchored by versatile senior left guard Andre Davis, a starter for 37 consecutive games.

STAT CORNER

3

2014 opponents that had an FBS record above .500 last year. The Bulls have the softest schedule imaginable.

DEFENSE Years of solid recruiting will help Buffalo survive the sting of losing seven starters on defense. Nevertheless, you can't lose a player like All-America linebacker Khalil Mack and not expect a significant drop-off. Also gone is four-year starter Colby Way at end. Both ends, in fact, have to be replaced, but nose guard Kristjan Sokoli, who started all 13 games last season, and linebacker Adam Redden, an All-MAC selection, return to the Bulls' lineup. Veteran defensive coordinator Lou Tepper will lean on both Sokoli and Redden for leadership as the unit matures.

Senior linebacker Lee Skinner has started all 37 games of his career and has ranked second on the team in tackles in each of his first three seasons. In the secondary, Cortney Lester enters his fourth season as a starting cornerback, while Marqus Baker will get the nod at the other corner to replace All-MAC selection Najja Johnson. Witney Sherry was sidelined with an injury last season but will likely start at free safety. Okezie Alozie ranked seventh on the team in tackles with 45 a year ago and is the favorite at strong safety.

The Bulls' ability to remain among the MAC's elite will largely depend on how soon a pass rush can be developed.

SPECIALISTS Kicker Patrick Clarke made 13-of-20 field goals and 45-of-48 extra point attempts last season and enters his senior season ranked third in Buffalo history with 29 career field goals. Tyler Grassman averaged 40 yards per punt a year ago with 26 downed inside the 20. Campbell is a feared returner, and Ross has the potential to blossom into one.

FINAL ANALYSIS Plenty of attention has been paid to Buffalo's heavy losses to graduation, and perhaps deservedly so, but the return of Licata should be enough to carry the offense. It will be challenging to avoid a projected slide on defense, but a soft schedule in the early season should ease the growing pains. Four of the first five games are at home, including games with two FCS opponents in Duquesne and Norfolk State.

Bowling Green is clearly the team to beat in the MAC East, but the Bulls, if the defense comes through, will have a chance to be a factor once again in the division race.

JOE LICATA

Paul Hokanson/UB Athletics

THE QUOTE

"Khalil Mack was the best player in the league the past 10 years. He will be missed, but they have a great scheme on defense."

— An opposing MAC assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	86	Ron Willoughby (Jr.)	25	John Dunmore (Sr.)
WR	13	Devon Hughes (Sr.)	80	Malcolm Robinson (So.)
WR	87	Boise Ross (So.)	12	Cordero Dixon (Sr.)
LT	**70**	**John Kling (Jr.)**	50	Andre Davis (Sr.)
LG	**50**	**Andre Davis (Sr.)**	52	Todd Therrien (Jr.)
C	**71**	**Trevor Sales (Sr.)**	61	Brandon Manosalvas (Fr.)
RG	**74**	**Robert Blodgett (Jr.)**	65	Dillon Guy (Sr.)
RT	**67**	**Jake Silas (Sr.)**	75	Albert McCoy (So.)
TE	**89**	**Matt Weiser (Jr.)**	85	Mason Schreck (So.)
QB	**16**	**Joe Licata (Jr.)**	5	Tony Daniel (Jr.)
RB	14	Anthone Taylor (Jr.)	21	Devin Campbell (Jr.)

DEFENSE (4)

DE	92	Tedroy Lynch (Sr.)	55	Brandon Crawford (So.)
NG	**90**	**Kristjan Sokoli (Sr.)**	93	Dalton Barksdale (Sr.)
DE	66	Max Perisse (So.)	58	Chris Ford (Fr.)
OLB	36	Jarrett Franklin (So.)	43	Nick Gilbo (Jr.)
ILB	**24**	**Lee Skinner (Sr.)**	52	Travis Pitzonka (Jr.)
ILB	9	Jake Stockman (Sr.)	39	Greg Lis (Fr.)
OLB	**29**	**Adam Redden (Sr.)**	41	Solomon Jackson (Fr.)
CB	**4**	**Cortney Lester (Sr.)**	28	Dwellie Striggles (Sr.)
CB	5	Marqus Baker (Jr.)	17	Andrews Dadeboe (Fr.)
FS	10	Witney Sherry (Sr.)	8	Houston Glass (So.)
SS	3	Okezie Alozie (Jr.)	23	Brandon Berry (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	45	Patrick Clarke (Sr.)	**KR**	21	Devin Campbell (Jr.)
P	11	Tyler Grassman (Jr.)	**PR**	21	Devin Campbell (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Joe Licata, 402-233-2,824-8, 24 TDs
Rushing: Anthone Taylor, 82 att., 399 yds., 3 TDs
Receiving: Devin Campbell, 19 rec., 200 yds., 0 TDs
Tackles: Lee Skinner, 79
Sacks: Adam Redden, 4.5
Interceptions: Cortney Lester, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

KENT STATE GOLDEN FLASHES

NATIONAL FORECAST 114
MAC EAST PREDICTION 5

Head Coach: Paul Haynes
Record at School: 4-8 (1 year)
Career Record: 4-8 (1 year)
Offensive Coordinator: Brian Rock
Defensive Coordinator: Brian George
Kent, OH
Dix Stadium (25,319)

2014 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 4-8, 3-5 (MAC)

August	
30	Ohio
September	
6	South Alabama
13	at Ohio State
27	at Virginia
October	
4	at Northern Illinois
11	Massachusetts
18	Army
25	at Miami (Ohio)
November	
4	Toledo
12	at Bowling Green
19	at Buffalo
25	Akron

2013 RESULTS (4-8, 3-5)

Aug. 29	Liberty	W	17–10
Sept. 7	Bowling Green	L	22–41
Sept. 14	at LSU	L	13–45
Sept. 21	at Penn State	L	0–34
Sept. 28	at Western Michigan	W	32–14
Oct. 5	Northern Illinois	L	24–38
Oct. 12	at Ball State	L	24–27
Oct. 19	at South Alabama	L	21–38
Oct. 26	Buffalo	L	21–41
Nov. 2	at Akron	L	7–16
Nov. 13	Miami (Ohio)	W	24–6
Nov. 19	at Ohio	W	44–13

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Jerrell Foster, DB, Cincinnati, OH
2. Zack Singer, DT, Las Vegas, NV
3. Erik Simpson, DB, Cleveland, OH
4. Shane Hynes, K, Clarkston, MI
5. George Bollas, QB, Aurora, OH
6. Kalil Morris, DT, Columbus, OH
7. Miles Hibbler, RB, Troy, OH
8. Zaquon Tyson, WR, Miami, FL
9. Marcus Elliott, DB, Toledo, OH
10. Eldin Anu, CB, Columbus, OH

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MAC	National
Scoring	20.8 ppg	8	104
Rushing	182.4 ypg	4	48
Passing	186.5 ypg	10	100
Total	368.9 ypg	7	88
Defense	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
Scoring	26.9 ppg	5	67
Rushing	198.8 ypg	8	94
Passing	211.1 ypg	4	27
Total	409.9 ypg	6	70
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
-4	-0.3	9	86

OFFENSE This unit must show major improvement in order to avoid a second consecutive disappointing season under coach Paul Haynes. In 2013, Kent State ranked 88th nationally in total offense, with injuries and inconsistency often being the culprits. A fresh start in 2014 comes with no promises unless quarterback Colin Reardon makes progress, bruising back Trayion Durham returns to form and a young group of receivers and linemen can fill significant voids.

Reardon was a redshirt freshman last season when he took over for four-year starter Spencer Keith. His numbers (58.9 percent completions, 12 TDs and nine INTs) reflected his inexperience. The job is his again, and Haynes and offensive coordinator Brian Rock believe great strides will be made in 2014.

The 250-pound Durham was slowed by injuries and gained only 766 yards rushing in 2013 after having 1,346 in KSU's bowl season of 2012. He was limited in spring drills with a foot injury, but the hope is that he will be ready in the fall — and ready to return to his former self.

Reardon will be throwing to receivers Chris Humphrey (No. 1 on the team in catches with 51 for 613 yards) and Josh Boyle (19 for 210 yards) as well as tight end Casey Pierce (33 for 364 yards). William Woods, Kris White and James Brooks lead the list of young prospects.

The line, a major question mark, will be dominated by underclassmen. Tackles Terrell Johnson and Jason Bitsko are the only returning starters.

STAT CORNER

39.2

Kent State's net punting average in 2013, which ranked 21st in the country. Punter Anthony Melchiori might be the team's best weapon.

DEFENSE The departure of the celebrated Roosevelt Nix, a four-time first-team All-MAC tackle, is part of an overhaul of the front line that concerns coordinator Brian George. Nate Terhune and Chris Fairchild will be asked to fill the middle after decent but uneven seasons in 2013. The hope is that end Nate Vance will be healthy by the opener after a shoulder injury limited his time in the spring.

Linebacking should be an area of strength with Matt Dellinger (77 tackles) in the middle and DeVante' Strickland (53 tackles) on the outside. The development and reliability of Elcee Refuge and Darius Redmond allowed the coaches to move Jordan Italiano (76 tackles) to safety.

With Italiano patrolling the back end, and experienced corners in Dylan Farrington and Malcolm Pannell (who combined for five of the team's nine interceptions in 2013), there is reason to be optimistic about the secondary. Sophomore transfers Najee Murray (a corner from Ohio State) and Nick Cuthbert (a safety from Georgia Tech) add talent and potential to the mix.

SPECIALISTS Placekickers Anthony Melchiori and Brad Miller are back after combining for 59 points last season. Melchiori (44.5-yard average) returns as one the MAC's best punters. Much improvement is needed on the return teams, which ranked 110th nationally in punt returns and 118th in kickoff returns last season. Speedy Ernest Calhoun is expected to be the primary threat in those areas.

FINAL ANALYSIS No one was quite ready for last year's fall from grace. The 2012 season was marked by a school-record 11 victories and the first bowl game since 1972. Then coach Darrell Hazell left for Purdue, and Haynes, a former Kent State player, replaced him. With a new quarterback and a new coach, KSU stumbled to a 4–8 record overall and a 3–5 mark in the MAC.

That was a collective shock to the Kent State faithful, and now comes the uncertainty about whether the program just suffered a temporary setback or whether the bad old days of the past are back.

This promises to be an interesting season around the confines of Dix Stadium. Whether it will be a successful one is far from assured.

TRAYION DURHAM

Ken Blaze/USATSI

THE QUOTE

"They had a real tough schedule last year. I don't know if the talent dropped off much from where they were. They aren't that far off."

— An opposing MAC assistant coach

OFFENSE (4)

WR	**6**	**Chris Humphrey (Sr.)**	81	Kris White (Fr.)
WR	17	William Woods (So.)	12	James Brooks (So.)
SLOT	19	Josh Boyle (Jr.)	20	Ernest Calhoun (So.)
LT	**67**	**Terrell Johnson (Sr.)**	55	Reno Reda (So.)
LG	71	Wayne Scott (So.)	73	Jake Witucki (So.)
C	63	Alex Nielsen (So.)	57	Tad France (So.)
RG	66	Anthony Pruitt (Jr.)	72	Jim Katusha (Jr.)
RT	**54**	**Jason Bitsko (Jr.)**	75	Brock Macauley (Fr.)
TE	7	Casey Pierce (Sr.)	84	Kyle Payton (Jr.)
QB	10	Colin Reardon (So.)	16	Nathan Strock (Fr.)
RB	**34**	**Trayion Durham (Sr.)**	21	Anthony Meray (Sr.)

DEFENSE (6)

DE	51	Terrence Waugh (So.)	52	Clay Miller (Jr.)
DT	69	Nate Terhune (Jr.)	54	Marcus Wright (Sr.)
NG	50	Chris Fairchild (Jr.)	55	Elias Sayre (Sr.)
DE	**48**	**Nate Vance (Sr.)**	34	Richard Gray (Sr.)
OLB	**31**	**DeVante' Strickland (Sr.)**	36	Darius Redmond (So.)
MLB	**32**	**Matt Dellinger (Jr.)**	36	Jake Houts (Sr.)
OLB	24	Elcee Refuge (So.)	27	Kevin Bourne (Fr.)
CB	**14**	**Dylan Farrington (Sr.)**	12	Najee Murray (So.)
CB	2	Malcolm Pannell (Sr.)	13	Kerrick Rhone (So.)
SS	**23**	**Jordan Italiano (Jr.)**	**6**	**Keenan Stalls (Jr.)**
FS	18	Nate Holley (So.)	8	Calvin Tiggle (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	85	Brad Miller (So.)	**KR**	20	Ernest Calhoun (So.)
P	14	Anthony Melchiori (Jr.)	**PR**	20	Ernest Calhoun (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Colin Reardon, 316-186-1,957-9, 12 TDs
Rushing: Trayion Durham, 182 att., 766 yds., 6 TDs
Receiving: Chris Humphrey, 51 rec., 613 yds., 3 TDs
Tackles: Matt Dellinger, 77
Sacks: Nate Vance, 3.5
Interceptions: Dylan Farrington, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

MIAMI REDHAWKS

NATIONAL FORECAST **120**
MAC EAST PREDICTION **6**

Head Coach: Chuck Martin
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: 74-7 (6 years)
Offensive Co-Coordinators: George Barnett, Eric Koehler
Defensive Coordinator: Matt Pawlowski
Oxford, OH
Yager Stadium (24,286)

2014 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 3-9, 2-6 (MAC)

August	
30	Marshall
September	
6	Eastern Kentucky
13	at Michigan
20	at Cincinnati
27	at Buffalo
October	
4	Massachusetts
11	at Akron
18	at Northern Illinois
25	Kent State
November	
1	Western Michigan
15	at Central Michigan
25	Ohio

2013 RESULTS (0-12, 0-8)

Aug. 31	at Marshall	L	14-52
Sept. 7	at Kentucky	L	7-41
Sept. 21	Cincinnati	L	0-14
Sept. 28	at Illinois	L	14-50
Oct. 5	Central Michigan	L	9-21
Oct. 12	at Massachusetts	L	10-17
Oct. 19	Akron	L	17-24
Oct. 26	at Ohio	L	16-41
Nov. 5	Bowling Green	L	3-45
Nov. 13	at Kent State	L	6-24
Nov. 19	Buffalo	L	7-44
Nov. 29	at Ball State	L	14-55

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Paul Moses, RB, Toledo, OH
2. Sam Martin, WR, Boulder, CO
3. Zach Hovey, TE, Eden Prairie, MN
4. Matthew Merimee, WR, Cleveland, OH
5. Gus Ragland, QB, Cincinnati, OH
6. Ikeem Allen, DL, Charlotte, NC
7. Deion Cineus, OL, Miami, FL
8. Jordan Rigg, TE, Springboro, OH
9. Alonzo Smith, RB, Palm Beach Gardens, FL
10. Zach Swarts, DL, Ft. Wayne, IN

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MAC	National
Scoring	9.8 ppg	13	122
Rushing	101.6 ypg	13	114
Passing	124.3 ypg	13	119
Total	225.8 ypg	13	122
Defense	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
Scoring	35.7 ppg	12	106
Rushing	223.3 ypg	11	111
Passing	260.9 ypg	12	103
Total	484.3 ypg	12	113
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
-3	-0.3	8	79

OFFENSE Chuck Martin's job before being named Miami's coach in December was offensive coordinator at Notre Dame, creating hope that he will help revive a RedHawk offense that defined anemic in 2013. Miami finished last in the MAC in rushing, passing, total and — of course — scoring (9.8 ppg).

Martin's biggest challenge is turning around Miami's rushing "attack." Sophomore quarterback Austin Gearing led the team in rushing last season, while junior Spencer Treadwell — the son of former coach Don Treadwell, who was fired last October after Miami got off to an 0–5 start — is the top returning ground-gainer among running backs, with 171 yards.

Gearing is likely to be supplanted at quarterback by senior Andrew Hendrix, who transferred from Notre Dame and is immediately eligible. Hendrix threw for 360 yards and a touchdown during his four years in South Bend. Joining him among the Fighting Irish transfers is tight end Alex Welch, who will help fortify a position depleted by graduation.

Whoever plays quarterback will have a deep corps of wide receivers at his disposal. Two starters and nine letterwinners return from last season's team, including senior Dawan Scott. The O-line also returns four of its five 2013 starters.

STAT CORNER

4.4

Average gain for Miami on first down, 123rd in the country. The RedHawks started behind schedule and never caught up.

DEFENSE Seven starters return from a defense that was almost as ineffective as the offense in 2013. Miami's most experienced unit is the linebacker group, where second-team all-conference pick Kent Kern returns in the middle after leading the RedHawks in tackles as a sophomore last season. Classmate Josh Dooley also started all 12 games and was third on the team with 87 tackles.

Three out of four starters and eight of nine letterwinners return in the secondary, including cornerback Heath Harding and safeties Brison Burris and Jay Mastin. Harding started 10 games as a true freshman last season and logged 56 tackles and a team-leading three interceptions. Senior Lo Wood, the last of three former Fighting Irish players to follow Martin to Oxford, also is eligible to play this season and is the likely starter at the other cornerback slot. He has big shoes to fill. Dayonne Nunley was a three-time first-team all-conference pick.

The area most in need of rebuilding is the defensive line, but junior end Bryson Albright provides a strong foundation after leading the RedHawks with five sacks and 11.5 tackles for a loss last season. On the interior, junior Mitchell Winters and sophomore Jimmy Rousher will start full-time at the tackle slots after sharing a position last season.

SPECIALISTS Junior Kaleb Patterson returns for his third season as Miami's placekicker. He focused on field goals and extra points last season, but he will add kickoffs and, perhaps, punting to his job description this season. Whether it's Patterson or junior Christian Koch handling the punting chores, they'll be hard-pressed to match the performance of Zac Murphy, who finished fourth in the nation in average yards per punt in 2013. Sophomore wide receiver Fred McRae is the RedHawks' most experienced punt and kickoff returner.

FINAL ANALYSIS Martin won two Division II national championships as the head coach at Grand Valley State and helped Notre Dame reach the BCS National Championship Game two years ago. He is used to winning. But this is a major rebuild. The RedHawks went 0–12 in 2013 and were perhaps the worst team in the nation. Quick turnarounds are possible in the MAC — see Ball State under Pete Lembo — but it's hard to envision the RedHawks climbing too far up the league's food chain in 2014.

KENT KERN

THE QUOTE

"They have guys that everybody in the MAC recruited. They have some talent. Just haven't been able to put it together."

— An opposing MAC assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	**25**	**Dawan Scott (Sr.)**	88	Jared Murphy (So.)
WR	85	Alvonta Jenkins (Jr.)	6	Rokeem Williams (So.)
WR	**80**	**David Frazier (Sr.)**	10	Sam Shisso (So.)
LT	**71**	**Zach Lewis (Sr.)**	53	Terry Davis (So.)
LG	**65**	**Trevan Brown (Jr.)**	70	Ryan Callen (So.)
C	75	Marcus Matthews (Sr.)	55	Jake Hilvert (So.)
RG	**73**	**Brandyn Cook (Jr.)**	76	Randy Heideman (Fr.)
RT	**74**	**Jeff Tanner (Sr.)**	72	Collin Buchanan (Fr.)
TE	84	Alex Welch (Sr.)	44	Liam Sallquist (Fr.)
QB	12	Andrew Hendrix (Sr.)	11	Austin Gearing (So.)
RB	**22**	**Spencer Treadwell (Jr.)**	15	Falon Lee (Fr.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	**95**	**Bryson Albright (Jr.)**	96	Jalen Johnson (So.)
DT	58	Jimmy Rousher (So.)	69	AJ Burdine (So.)
DT	**99**	**Mitchell Winters (Jr.)**	92	Mwanza Wamulumba (Sr.)
DE	91	J'Terius Brown (So.)	97	Tim Johnson (Jr.)
OLB	34	Tre Clifton (Jr.)	49	TJ Williams (So.)
MLB	**43**	**Kent Kern (Jr.)**	47	Nate Gerbus (So.)
OLB	**51**	**Josh Dooley (Jr.)**	38	Tyler Tucker (Jr.)
CB	3	Lo Wood (Sr.)	27	Jarrell Jones (Sr.)
CB	**24**	**Heath Harding (So.)**	21	Marshall Taylor (So.)
SS	**14**	**Jay Mastin (So.)**	30	Buchi Okafor (So.)
FS	**35**	**Brison Burris (Sr.)**	29	Randy Anderson (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	13	Kaleb Patterson (Jr.)	**KR**	26	J.J. Greenwood (Sr.)
P	57	Christian Koch (Jr.)	**PR**	18	Fred McRae (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Austin Gearing, 54-24-188-3, 0 TDs
Rushing: Austin Gearing, 145 att., 478 yds., 1 TD
Receiving: Dawan Scott, 28 rec., 425 yds., 2 TDs
Tackles: Kent Kern, 98
Sacks: Bryson Albright, 5
Interceptions: Heath Harding, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Miami University SID

OHIO BOBCATS

NATIONAL FORECAST **95**
MAC EAST PREDICTION **2**

Head Coach: Frank Solich
Record at School: 66-50 (9 years)
Career Record: 124-69 (15 years)
Offensive Co-Coordinators: Tim Albin, Scott Isphording
Defensive Coordinator: Jimmy Burrow
Athens, OH
Peden Stadium (24,000)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 7-5, 5-3 (MAC)

August	
30	at Kent State
September	
6	at Kentucky
13	at Marshall
20	Idaho
27	Eastern Illinois
October	
4	at Central Michigan
11	Bowling Green
18	Akron
25	at Western Michigan
November	
5	Buffalo
18	Northern Illinois
25	at Miami (Ohio)

2013 RESULTS (7-6, 4-4)

Sept. 1	at Louisville	L	7–49
Sept. 7	North Texas	W	27–21
Sept. 14	Marshall	W	34–31
Sept. 21	Austin Peay	W	38–0
Oct. 5	at Akron	W	43–3
Oct. 12	Central Michigan	L	23–26
Oct. 19	at Eastern Michigan	W	56–28
Oct. 26	Miami (Ohio)	W	41–16
Nov. 5	at Buffalo	L	3–30
Nov. 12	at Bowling Green	L	0–49
Nov. 19	Kent State	L	13–44
Nov. 29	Massachusetts	W	51–23
Dec. 23	vs. East Carolina #	L	20–37

#Beef 'O'Brady's Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Joey Duckworth, QB, Louisville, OH
2. Jared McCray, OL, Minford, OH
3. Joe Lowery, OL, Tallmadge, OH
4. Robbie Walker, WR, Reston, VA
5. Connor Brown, TE, Miamisburg, OH
6. Brennan Dudziak, OL, Pickerington, OH
7. Curtis Brunson, CB, Farmington, MI
8. Kyle Kuhar, DE, Avon Lake, OH
9. Andrew Meyer, WR, Pickington, OH
10. Kent Berger, DE, Mentor, OH

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MAC	National
Scoring	27.4 ppg	6	73
Rushing	134.0 ypg	8	98
Passing	245.4 ypg	3	52
Total	379.4 ypg	6	83
Defense	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
Scoring	27.5 ppg	6	71
Rushing	187.9 ypg	6	85
Passing	217.9 ypg	7	43
Total	405.8 ypg	5	67
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
-2	-0.2	6	73

OFFENSE After scores of records, the only two bowl wins in the program's history, and even a brief stay inside the nation's top 25 in 2012, Ohio turns the page on the Tyler Tettleton era in 2014. The Bobcats' most accomplished quarterback will be replaced this season by one of two candidates who have waited for their chance the past two years. Junior Derrius Vick has more reps, including a spot start in 2012 on his résumé, and a slight lead going into fall camp. He'll be pushed by sophomore JD Sprague, a former walk-on who fits the same dual-threat mold.

Ohio has to replace key offensive pieces all over the depth chart. Departed running back Beau Blankenship piled up just under 3,000 yards rushing over the past three years, and the Bobcats now will turn to two largely unproven backs. Junior Daz Patterson averaged 5.6 per carry in spot work in 2013, but he lacks the size to be an every-down, between-the-tackles threat. Senior Tim Edmond, who has also played tight end and linebacker at Ohio, will be the big-back option and handle short-yardage situations. Expect redshirt freshman Dorian Brown, or perhaps incoming freshman Maleek Irons, to get a look as well.

The receiving group is also being rebuilt nearly from scratch. Only senior flanker Chase Cochran (689 receiving yards in 2013) returns from Ohio's top six pass-catchers of a year ago. Iowa transfer Cam Wilson and slot specialist Landon Smith (hurt for most of 2013) also will be critical. Sophomore Troy Mangen and junior college transfer Brennan Boland are tasked to handle the varied role of Ohio's tight ends.

STAT CORNER

.300

Ohio's winning percentage in November and December in the past two seasons. Late fades have turned great seasons into merely decent ones.

The offensive line never got settled a year ago — eight different lineups were used in the first eight games — and the unit will be young again with three juniors and two sophomores in the projected starting five. For the first time in a decade, Ohio will not have a senior in the projected two-deep up front. However, guard Mike Lucas, center Lucas Powell and tackle Mike McQueen all return with two years of experience.

DEFENSE Rebuilding in 2013, Ohio simply wasn't good enough on this side of the ball to contend for a MAC championship. The Bobcats gave up 4.6 yards per carry, more than 400 yards per game and yielded 34 plays of 30 yards or more.

The good news is that the defense has the potential to be much better. Seven starters return, and Ohio will have solid depth on the line where sophomore ends Tarell Basham and Kurt Laseak and senior tackles Antwan Crutcher and Cameron McLeod lead the way.

The Bobcats have two returning junior linebackers, Ben Russell (middle) and Jovon Johnson (outside), who were important contributors a year ago, when both learned on the fly.

In the secondary, Ohio loses two starters but shouldn't skip a beat. Senior safeties Josh Kristoff, Thad Ingol and Nate Carpenter each have considerable experience, and junior cornerbacks Devin Bass and Ian Wells have both started games the previous two seasons.

SPECIALISTS Junior placekicker Josiah Yazdani was a pleasant find early last season as he solidified that role four weeks into the season and missed just one attempt on the year. Ohio signed junior college transfer Mitch Bonnstetter to help alleviate the problems of the past two seasons with blocked punts or mishandled snaps.

FINAL ANALYSIS Ohio has developed into a consistent winner under coach Frank Solich, and with a veteran defense and solid special teams, the Bobcats should again be a contender for a winning season and possible bowl bid. But with a complete rebuild in store for the offense, Ohio will have a tough time contending for a league title in 2014.

CHASE COCHRAN

AP Photo/Chris O'Meara

THE QUOTE

"They will be very talented up front. They have some solid young tailbacks, too. They need a quarterback to step up."

— An opposing MAC assistant coach

OFFENSE (3)

WR	8	Chase Cochran (Sr.)	12	Jordan Reid (So.)
WR	87	Landon Smith (Sr.)	2	Ian Dixon (Jr.)
WR	6	Sebastian Smith (So.)	29	Cam Wilson (So.)
LT	**75**	**Mike McQueen (Jr.)**	70	Zach Adams (Fr.)
LG	**67**	**Mike Lucas (Jr.)**	58	Seth Everhart (So.)
C	**54**	**Lucas Powell (Jr.)**	73	Joel Schilke (Jr.)
RG	57	Durrell Wood (So.)	78	Nick Gibbons (So.)
RT	79	Troy Watson (So.)	69	Zack Murdock (Fr.)
TE	82	Troy Mangen (So.)	80	Brennan Boland (Jr.)
QB	15	Derrius Vick (Jr.)	3	JD Sprague (So.)
RB	7	Daz'mond Patterson (Jr.)	31	Tim Edmond (Sr.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	93	Tarell Basham (So.)	96	Kendric Smith (Sr.)
DT	**91**	**Antwan Crutcher (Sr.)**	98	Tony Davis (Sr.)
DT	94	Cameron McLeod (Sr.)	**95**	**Brandon Purdum (So.)**
DE	**99**	**Kurt Laseak (So.)**	44	Casey Sayles (So.)
SLB	51	Jovon Johnson (Jr.)	32	Quentin Poling (Fr.)
MLB	**36**	**Ben Russell (Jr.)**	40	Cody Grilliot (Fr.)
WLB	33	Blair Brown (So.)	43	William Johnson (So.)
CB	**37**	**Devin Bass (Jr.)**	13	Devin Jones (Jr.)
CB	41	Ian Wells (Jr.)	29	Mike Terpin (Jr.)
SS	**9**	**Josh Kristoff (Sr.)**	**35**	**Nate Carpenter (Sr.)**
FS	25	Thad Ingol (Sr.)	24	Toran Davis (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	39	Josiah Yazdani (Jr.)	KR	37	Devin Bass (Jr.)
P	23	Mitch Bonnstetter (Jr.)	PR	2	Ian Dixon (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Derrius Vick, 45-21-277-1, 1 TD
Rushing: Daz'mond Patterson, 38 att., 211 yds., 2 TDs
Receiving: Chase Cochran, 37 rec., 689 yds., 4 TDs
Tackles: Ben Russell, 88
Sacks: Tarell Basham, 7.5
Interceptions: Thad Ingol, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

UMASS MINUTEMEN

NATIONAL FORECAST 121
MAC EAST PREDICTION 7

Head Coach: Mark Whipple
Record at School: 49-26 (6 years, 1998-2003)
Career Record: 121-59 (16 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Mark Whipple
Defensive Coordinator: Tom Masella
Amherst, MA
Gillette Stadium (68,756)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 2-10, 2-6 (MAC)

August	
30	Boston College
September	
6	Colorado
13	at Vanderbilt
20	at Penn State
27	Bowling Green
October	
4	at Miami (Ohio)
11	at Kent State
18	Eastern Michigan
25	at Toledo
November	
12	Ball State
18	at Akron
28	Buffalo

*All home games at Gillette Field

2013 RESULTS (1-11, 1-7)

Aug. 31	at Wisconsin	L	0-45
Sept. 7	Maine	L	14-24
Sept. 14	at Kansas State	L	7-37
Sept. 21	Vanderbilt	L	7-24
Oct. 5	at Bowling Green	L	7-28
Oct. 12	Miami (Ohio)	W	17-10
Oct. 19	at Buffalo	L	3-32
Oct. 26	Western Michigan	L	30-31
Nov. 2	Northern Illinois	L	19-63
Nov. 16	Akron	L	13-14
Nov. 23	at Central Michigan	L	0-37
Nov. 29	at Ohio	L	23-51

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. J.T. Blyden, RB, West Grove, PA
2. Jean Sifrin, TE, Miami, FL*
3. Jarrell Addo, S, Leominster, MA
4. Jake Largay, OT, East Hartland CT
5. Randall West, QB, Lawrenceville, NJ
6. Jack Wynne, DL, Riverside, CT
7. Jalen Williams, WR, Kennesaw, GA*
8. Jon Denton, TE, Perry, KS*
9. Da'Sean Downey, LB, White Plains, NY
10. Liam Porter, OL, Natick, MA*

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MAC	National
Scoring	11.7 ppg	12	121
Rushing	125.2 ypg	10	104
Passing	156.4 ypg	12	111
Total	281.6 ypg	12	120
Defense	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
Scoring	33.0 ppg	10	97
Rushing	215.5 ypg	10	106
Passing	217.8 ypg	6	42
Total	433.3 ypg	11	98
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
-7	-0.6	11	105

OFFENSE The University of Massachusetts' potential to take a step forward after two 1–11 seasons might hinge on how quickly some key newcomers pick up new coach Mark Whipple's offense. At least eight players who weren't with the team in the spring are being asked to be key contributors right away. That list includes quarterback Blake Frohnapfel, a graduate transfer from Marshall who has two years of eligibility left. He played well for the Herd backing up Rakeem Cato but wasn't likely to see the field much behind the All-Conference USA quarterback and elected to transfer. If Frohnapfel can catch on fast, the whole offense figures to benefit, as quarterback play has held the Minutemen back the past two seasons.

Jalen Williams, a 6'3" junior college transfer, and Alex Kenney, a speedy fifth-year transfer from Penn State, figure to bolster an already deep receiving corps. Marken Michel, who quit the team under Charley Molnar, is not only back, but also a likely starter in the slot. Whipple has relied a lot on tight ends at previous stops, so junior college transfers Jean Sifrin and Jon Denton should have a chance to make an impact.

Last year, several running backs had strong single games, but nobody stayed healthy long enough to build any consistency. Junior Jamal Wilson will get the first crack at being the No. 1 ball-carrier, but sophomores Lorenzo Woodley and Shadrach Abrokwah both could see plenty of carries.

They'll run behind an offensive line that will need to grow together. The unit has only one player — center Matt Sparks — who has been in the program longer than two seasons.

STAT CORNER

5

Rushing touchdowns by UMass last year in 12 games. Only one team (South Florida) had fewer.

DEFENSE Because it was forced to spend too much time on the field covering for an offense that couldn't move the ball, the defense's numbers looked worse than its actual play in 2013. The coaching staff is excited about its young veterans at both linebacker and in the secondary.

UMass will switch to a 3-4 under new defensive coordinator Tom Masella, a move that should highlight the team's depth at linebacker. Junior Kassan Messiah was a standout in the spring on the outside and could have a chance to evolve into an all-conference-caliber player, while senior Stanley Andre is expected lead the unit from his inside backer spot.

Juniors Randall Jette and Trey Dudley-Giles will be starting at corner for a third straight season and have improved each year.

The key will be the development of the defensive line, which is neither deep nor experienced. Senior nose tackle Daniel Maynes will anchor the unit, while sophomores Enock Asante and Peter Angeh try to build off the glimpses of potential they each showed in 2013.

If the line can hold its own, the entire defense should be good enough to keep UMass competitive in MAC contests.

SPECIALISTS Junior Blake Lucas, who lost his starting kicker job late last season, has a big leg but hasn't found consistent accuracy in two seasons. He'll start the season with a short leash. Logan Laurent is the punter, and Dudley-Giles is back for his third season returning kicks and punts.

FINAL ANALYSIS After two tough years under Molnar, who was fired in the offseason, UMass is hoping Whipple can turn the program around for the second time. In his first stint in Amherst (1998-2003), Whipple turned a team that was 2–9 the year before he arrived into the 1998 Division I-AA champions, which made his return popular in Amherst. He coached UMass for six years before working as an assistant in the NFL and at the University of Miami.

The task could be tougher this time as he inherits a team that won only one game in each of the last two seasons.

STANLEY ANDRE

THE QUOTE

"They didn't do a lot on defense. You could scheme them up pretty well. Not sure what the new staff will do."

—An opposing MAC assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	1	**Tajae Sharpe (Jr.)**		Alex Kenney (Sr.)
WR	80	Jalen Williams (Jr.)	19	Shakur Nesmith (Fr.)
WR	10	Marken Michel (Jr.)	**16**	**Elgin Long (So.)**
LT	**77**	**Tyrell Smith (So.)**	76	Tyshon Henderson (So.)
LG	68	Elijah Wilkinson (So.)	72	Rich Queen (Fr.)
C	**78**	**Matt Sparks (Jr.)**	73	Fabian Hoeller (So.)
RG		Ryan Johnson (Jr.)	55	Josh Bruns (Sr.)
RT		Liam Porter (Fr.)	76	Tyshon Henderson (So.)
TE		Jean Sifrin (Jr.)		Jon Denton (Jr.)
QB		Blake Frohnapfel (Jr.)	**15**	**A.J. Doyle (Jr.)**
TB	22	Jamal Wilson (Jr.)	20	Lorenzo Woodley (So.)

DEFENSE (5)

DE	95	Sha-Ki Holines (Fr.)	60	Enock Asante (So.)
NT	97	Daniel Maynes (Sr.)	92	Robert Kitching (Jr.)
DE	5	Peter Angeh (So.)	94	Joe Tyo (Fr.)
OLB	54	Trey Seals (Jr.)	41	Da'Sean Downey (Fr.)
ILB	17	Jovan Santos-Knox (Jr.)	8	Shane Huber (So.)
ILB	**35**	**Stanley Andre (Sr.)**	42	John Robinson-Woodgett (So.)
OLB	3	Kassan Messiah (Jr.)	34	Steve Casali (Fr.)
CB	**4**	**Randall Jette (Jr.)**	36	DuVaughn Beckford (Jr.)
CB	**9**	**Trey Dudley-Giles (Jr.)**	2	Quayshun Smith (Sr.)
S	7	D'Metrius Williams (Jr.)	**6**	**Ed Saint-Vil (Sr.)**
S	**25**	**Joe Colton (Jr.)**	21	Khary Bailey-Smith (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	98	Blake Lucas (Jr.)	KR	9	Trey Dudley-Giles (Jr.)
P	99	Logan Laurent (Fr.)	PR	9	Trey Dudley-Giles (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: A.J. Doyle, 235-128-1,274-11, 6 TDs
Rushing: Jamal Wilson, 100 att., 368 yds., 1 TD
Receiving: Tajae Sharpe, 61 rec., 680 yds., 4 TDs
Tackles: Stanley Andre, 111
Sacks: Joe Colton, 1; Quayshun Smith, 1
Interceptions: Khary Bailey-Smith, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Jeff Hanisch-USA Today Sports

BALL STATE FALCONS

NATIONAL FORECAST 79
MAC WEST PREDICTION 3

Head Coach: Pete Lembo
Record at School: 25-13 (3 years)
Career Record: 104-49 (13 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Joey Lynch
Defensive Coordinator: Kevin Kelly
Muncie, IN
Scheumann Stadium (22,500)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 8-4, 5-3 (MAC)

August	
30	Colgate
September	
6	at Iowa
13	Indiana State
20	at Toledo
October	
4	at Army
11	Western Michigan
18	at Central Michigan
25	Akron
November	
5	Northern Illinois
12	at Massachusetts
22	Eastern Michigan
28	at Bowling Green

2013 RESULTS (10-3, 7-1)

Aug. 29	Illinois State	W	51–28
Sept. 7	Army	W	40–14
Sept. 14	at North Texas	L	27–34
Sept. 21	at Eastern Michigan	W	51–20
Sept. 28	Toledo	W	31–24
Oct. 5	at Virginia	W	48–27
Oct. 12	Kent State	W	27–24
Oct. 19	at Western Michigan	W	38–17
Oct. 26	at Akron	W	42–24
Nov. 6	Central Michigan	W	44–24
Nov. 13	at Northern Illinois	L	27–48
Nov. 29	Miami (Ohio)	W	55–14
Jan. 5	vs. Arkansas State #	L	20–23

#GoDaddy Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Malik King, OL, Muskegon, MI
2. Kevin Willis, DT, Indianapolis, IN
3. Quinten Turner, DB, Decatur, GA
4. David Morrison, QB, Ft. Wayne, IN
5. Jordan Hogue, WR, Ft. Wayne, IN
6. Damon Singleton, LB, Wyandotte, MI
7. Alex Joss, OL, Novi, MI
8. Corey Lacanaria, WR, Farmington Hills, MI
9. Dedrick Cromartie, DB, St. Louis, MO
10. Jake McPhatter, DB, New Castle, PA

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MAC	National
Scoring	38.5 ppg	2	15
Rushing	152.9 ypg	7	79
Passing	324.2 ypg	1	12
Total	477.1 ypg	2	19
Defense	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
Scoring	24.7 ppg	3	47
Rushing	195.3 ypg	7	92
Passing	218.5 ypg	8	44
Total	413.8 ypg	7	77
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
+12	0.9	3	12

Ball State SID

OFFENSE Ball State bid a bittersweet farewell to four-year starting quarterback Keith Wenning, who walked out the door with 11,402 career passing yards, 92 touchdowns and virtually every other passing record in the school's book. Wenning led the Cardinals to 19 wins the last two seasons and a pair of bowl bids, but Ball State is still searching for its first bowl victory.

Coach Pete Lembo spent the spring searching for Wenning's successor. Four youngsters shared the snaps in April, but sophomore Ozzie Mann (nine career attempts) and redshirt freshman Jack Milas earned the right to take the fight into fall camp. "It's Mann slightly ahead of Milas," Lembo says. "Ozzie had a solid spring. Jack has a big upside to him. He has the playmaker 'it' factor. It should be a good battle."

Ball State also lost three of its top four receivers, including Willie Snead (106 catches, 1,516 yards, 15 TDs) after he opted to turn pro a year early. Look for Jordan Williams (72-1,050-10) to expand on his monstrous sophomore campaign. "He's poised for a breakout year," Lembo says. "He's got a chance to be special."

With relatively few veterans returning in the passing game, the Cardinals are more than happy to emphasize a running game that features Jahwan Edwards (1,110 yards) and Horactio Banks (595). Edwards already owns the school record with 39 career rushing scores and needs just 697 yards to claim that career mark as well. He has three stalwart linemen, including third-team All-MAC center Jacob Richard, to blaze paths for him.

"We would be foolish if we didn't play to the strengths of the unit," Lembo says.

STAT CORNER

6.8

Ball State's average yards per play in MAC games last year. Only Northern Illinois (7.2) and Bowling Green (7.0) averaged more than the Cardinals.

DEFENSE When defensive coordinator Jay Bateman moved to take the same role at Army in the offseason, Lembo jumped at the chance to hire Georgetown head coach Kevin Kelly to replace him. Lembo and Kelly coached together at Dartmouth in 1995 and have been close friends since. "He's a guy I completely trust," Lembo says. "The trust factor is huge. He's brought such a great presence to our defense. He's tried to simplify a few things so our kids can play fast. I like the way this group is playing right now."

Ball State won't look significantly different than in years past, though opponents might notice the Cardinals in a few more three-man fronts this fall.

Kelly inherits a strong secondary that features three worthy starters at safety in Brian Jones, Dae'Shaun Hurley and Martez Hester as well as veteran corner Eric Patterson. Second-team All-MAC outside linebacker Ben Ingle ranked third in the league last year with 116 tackles, while sophomore Zack Ryan started every game in the middle last year.

The question marks are along the line as defensive end Nick Miles (five sacks) is the only returning starter. Projected starting nose tackle Carlutorbantu Zaramo injured his knee during spring ball, so he's not expected to be ready on time.

SPECIALISTS Senior Scott Secor was the top-scoring kicker in the MAC (117 points) last season and drilled 19-of-24 field-goal attempts. Sophomore punter Kyle Schmidt ranked sixth in the league with his 40.9-yard average. The Cardinals must replace splendid returner Jamill Smith and will decide among three different contenders to handle return duties in the fall.

FINAL ANALYSIS Northern Illinois is the standard-bearer in the MAC West, but nobody in the division has played the Huskies tougher than Ball State. While the Cardinals might not improve their win total for the fourth time in Lembo's four years at the helm, they appear positioned to stay in the MAC's elite for years to come.

JAHWAN EDWARDS

THE QUOTE

"Pete Lembo's track record speaks for itself. He's an unusual guy, but he does a great job. They have a good scheme on offense."

— An opposing MAC assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	8	**Jordan Williams (Jr.)**	18	Efe Scott-Emuakpor (So.)
WR	80	Chris Shillings (Jr.)	36	Aaron Hepp (So.)
WR	30	KeVonn Mabon (Jr.)	82	Shane Belle (Sr.)
QT	66	**Steve Bell (So.)**	73	Pat Maloney (Fr.)
QG	64	P.J. Scott (Sr.)	68	Jeremiah Harvey (Jr.)
C	62	**Jacob Richard (Jr.)**	61	Taylor Hoke (Sr.)
SG	65	**Jalen Schlachter (Jr.)**	77	Vinnie Palazeti (Fr.)
ST	78	Drake Miller (So.)	67	Nick Plavchak (Jr.)
TE	85	Sam Brunner (So.)	40	Dylan Curry (Jr.)
QB	15	Ozzie Mann (So.)	14	Jack Milas (Fr.)
TB	32	**Jahwan Edwards (Sr.)**	4	Horactio Banks (Jr.)

DEFENSE (6)

DE	52	**Nick Miles (Sr.)**	94	Osa Igbinosun (Jr.)
DT	95	Darnell Smith (Jr.)	97	Blake Dueitt (So.)
NT	35	Keenan Noel (Jr.)	96	Carlutorbantu Zaramo (So.)
DE	9	Michael Ayers (Jr.)	98	Anthony Winbush (Fr.)
WLB	19	**Ben Ingle (Jr.)**	42	Julian Boyd (Sr.)
MLB	53	**Zack Ryan (So.)**	56	Sean Wiggins (So.)
SLB	37	Aaron Taylor (So.)	22	Quintin Cooper (Sr.)
FC	33	Tyree Holder (So.)	13	David Moore (Fr.)
BC	5	**Eric Patterson (Sr.)**	20	Darius Conaway (So.)
FS	45	**Dae'Shaun Hurley (So.)**	43	Martez Hester (So.)
SS	29	**Brian Jones (Sr.)**	28	Gilbert Stlouis (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	1	Scott Secor (Sr.)	KR	5	Eric Patterson (Sr.)
P	21	Kyle Schmidt (So.)	PR	36	Aaron Hepp (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Ozzie Mann, 9-2-29-1, 0 TDs
Rushing: Jahwan Edwards, 212 att., 1,110 yds., 14 TDs
Receiving: Jordan Williams, 72 rec., 1,050 yds., 10 TDs
Tackles: Ben Ingle, 116
Sacks: Nick Miles, 5
Interceptions: Martez Hester, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

CENTRAL MICHIGAN CHIPPEWAS

NATIONAL FORECAST **107**
MAC WEST PREDICTION **4**

Head Coach: Dan Enos
Record at School: 19-30 (4 years)
Career Record: 19-30 (4 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Morris Watts
Defensive Coordinator: Joe Tumpkin
Mount Pleasant, MI
Kelly/Shorts Stadium (30,255)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 5-7, 4-4 (MAC)

August	
28	Chattanooga
September	
6	at Purdue
13	Syracuse
20	at Kansas
27	at Toledo
October	
4	Ohio
11	at Northern Illinois
18	Ball State
25	at Buffalo
November	
1	at Eastern Michigan
15	Miami (Ohio)
22	Western Michigan

2013 RESULTS (6-6, 5-3)

Aug. 31	at Michigan	L	9–59
Sept. 7	New Hampshire	W	24–21
Sept. 14	at UNLV	L	21–31
Sept. 21	Toledo	L	17–38
Sept. 28	at NC State	L	14–48
Oct. 5	at Miami (Ohio)	W	21–9
Oct. 12	at Ohio	W	26–23
Oct. 19	Northern Illinois	L	17–38
Nov. 6	at Ball State	L	24–44
Nov. 16	at Western Michigan	W	27–22
Nov. 23	Massachusetts	W	37–0
Nov. 29	Eastern Michigan	W	42–10

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Alex Neering, DE, Essexville, MI
2. Nate Brisson-Fast, DE, Ferndale, MI
3. Amari Coleman, ATH, Flint, MI
4. Cooper Mojsiejenko, P, Bridgman, MI
5. Zach Oakley, QB, Osceola, IN
6. Alex Briones, LB, Ishpeming, MI
7. Mitch Stanitzek, TE, Grand Rapids, MI
8. Malik Fountain, LB, Olympia Fields, IL
9. Devon Spalding, RB, Westland, MI
10. Trent Grimes, RB, Fenton, MI

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MAC	National
Scoring	23.3 ppg	7	95
Rushing	132.8 ypg	9	99
Passing	208.3 ypg	8	84
Total	341.1 ypg	9	108
Defense	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
Scoring	28.6 ppg	7	73
Rushing	201.3 ypg	9	97
Passing	203.9 ypg	3	20
Total	405.2 ypg	4	66
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
-5	-0.4	10	94

OFFENSE Injuries caused the Central Michigan offense to be slowed considerably in 2013. It was a storyline that helped turn what looked like one of the top offenses in the MAC into a middle-of-the-road attack that had some big games but also some very disappointing outings.

While senior quarterback Cody Kater is healthy again after being out almost all of last year with a broken collarbone suffered in the opener at Michigan, he might not be able reclaim his starting job. Cooper Rush took the reins in Kater's absence and had some impressive moments as a redshirt freshman. He came off the bench in Week 2 against New Hampshire to throw for 326 yards and three touchdowns, leading the way to a 24–21 comeback victory. Rush also struggled at times with reads; too often he threw interceptions into the hands of sitting linebackers.

What will help Rush is the return of senior wide receiver Titus Davis, who toyed with the idea of entering the NFL Draft before opting to return. Arguably the best big-play threat in the conference and a first-team All-MAC selection as a junior, Davis caught 61 passes for 1,109 yards and eight touchdowns in 2014. He ranks first among active FBS players in yards per catch (18.9).

Central Michigan returns an experienced offensive line led by senior left guard Andy Phillips, a second-team All-MAC selection as a junior.

STAT CORNER

1-11

CMU's record against the Big 3 in the MAC West — Northern Illinois, Toledo and Ball State — in Dan Enos' four seasons as head coach.

DEFENSE This will be the third full year that the Chippewas will employ a 4-2-5 scheme under defensive coordinator Joe Tumpkin, and it has produced mixed results thus far. Central Michigan tied for seventh in the MAC in scoring defense (28.6 ppg) in 2013, but the Chips ranked fourth in the league in total defense (405.2 ypg).

Leading the charge defensively will be senior linebacker Justin Cherocci, who notched 121 tackles a year ago and is entering his third year as a starter. A third-team All-MAC selection in 2013, Cherocci shifts over to the strong side linebacker spot to replace the graduated Shamari Benton. Senior Cody Lopez and junior Tim Hamilton will battle for the other starting linebacker spot.

Expect a better frontline for CMU, with sophomore defensive tackle Jabari Dean back in the fold after missing last year with a groin injury. He was impressive as a freshman in 2012 and played well during spring practice. Senior defensive tackle Leterrius Walton has dropped down from 323 pounds to 297 and could make a huge difference inside.

Sophomore safety Tony Annese made some noise last season as he stepped into the starting lineup late and had 34-yard interception returns for touchdowns in back-to-back games against Western Michigan and Massachusetts.

SPECIALISTS Ron Coluzzi converted 12-of-17 field goals as a freshman and will once again handle the placekicking. Punting duties will likely fall to true freshman Cooper Mojsiejenko, the son of former NFL punter Ralf Mojsiejenko.

FINAL ANALYSIS Central Michigan was bowl-eligible in 2013 with a 6–6 record but did not receive a postseason invite. There is considerable pressure on Dan Enos and his staff to get the Chips back among the elite in the MAC West. Enos inherited a program that went 32–7 in the MAC from 2005-09, but is 13–19 in league play in four seasons.

There are reasons for optimism: The Chips return 16 starters from a team that went 5–3 in the league. But there are also reasons for concern: Four of the five victories came against teams that either went 1–7 or 0–8 in the MAC.

Bottom line: This team is competitive but still not ready to contend in the West.

TITUS DAVIS

THE QUOTE

"They are a strong, physical group on defense. They don't do a whole bunch — they just try to be more physical than you."

— An opposing MAC assistant coach

OFFENSE (9)

WR	84	**Titus Davis (Sr.)**	88	Jesse Kroll (Jr.)
WR	85	**Courtney Williams (Sr.)**	80	Anthony Rice (So.)
WR	9	Andrew Flory (Jr.)	3	Mark Chapman (Fr.)
LT	77	**Ramadan Ahmeti (Jr.)**	76	Jack Ford (Fr.)
LG	66	**Andy Phillips (Sr.)**	71	Kevin D'Arcy (So.)
C	54	**Nick Beamish (Jr.)**	79	Austin Doan (Fr.)
RG	63	**Cooper Collins (So.)**	75	Kenny Rogers (Jr.)
RT	60	**Kevin Henry (Sr.)**	74	Derek Edwards (Fr.)
TE	15	Deon Butler (Sr.)	83	Ben McCord (Jr.)
QB	10	**Cooper Rush (So.)**	7	Cody Kater (Sr.)
RB	6	**Saylor Lavallii (Jr.)**	11	Maurice Shoemaker-Gilmore (So.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	46	Blake Serpa (Jr.)	45	Joe Ostman (So.)
DT	58	**Leterrius Walton (Sr.)**	95	Shafer Johnson (Jr.)
DT	52	Jabari Dean (So.)	50	Matt Losiniecki (Sr.)
DE	56	**Louis Palmer (Jr.)**	93	Donny Kyre (Fr.)
SLB	41	**Justin Cherocci (Sr.)**	59	Nathan Ricketts (Jr.)
WLB	51	Cody Lopez (Sr.)	43	Tim Hamilton (Jr.)
CB	14	**Jason Wilson (Sr.)**	8	Winslow Chapman (So.)
CB	35	**Brandon Greer (Jr.)**	28	Dennis Nalor (Sr.)
FS	18	Tony Annese (So.)	44	Alex Fine (Sr.)
SS	5	**Kavon Frazier (Jr.)**	8	Winslow Chapman (So.)
RS	29	**Jarret Chapman (Sr.)**	10	Kevin King (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	17	Ron Coluzzi (So.)	KR	3	Mark Chapman (Fr.)
P		Cooper Mojsiejenko (Fr.)	PR	84	Titus Davis (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Cooper Rush, 312-177-2,349-15, 15 TDs
Rushing: Saylor Lavallii, 182 att., 807 yds., 5 TDs
Receiving: Titus Davis, 61 rec., 1,109 yds., 8 TDs
Tackles: Justin Cherocci, 121
Sacks: Justin Cherocci, 4.0
Interceptions: Kavon Frazier, 3; Jason Wilson, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Central Michigan Athletic Communications

EASTERN MICHIGAN EAGLES

NATIONAL FORECAST **124**
MAC WEST PREDICTION **6**

Head Coach: Chris Creighton
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: 139-46 (17 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Kalen DeBoer
Defensive Coordinator: Brad McCaslin
Ypsilanti, MI
Rynearson Stadium (30,200)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 2-10, 1-7 (MAC)

August	
30	Morgan State
September	
6	at Florida
13	at Old Dominion
20	at Michigan State
October	
4	at Akron
11	Buffalo
18	at Massachusetts
25	Northern Illinois
November	
1	Central Michigan
15	at Western Michigan
22	at Ball State
28	Toledo

2013 RESULTS (2-10, 1-7)

Aug. 31	Howard	W	34–24
Sept. 7	at Penn State	L	7–45
Sept. 14	at Rutgers	L	10–28
Sept. 21	Ball State	L	20–51
Oct. 5	at Buffalo	L	14–42
Oct. 12	at Army	L	25–50
Oct. 19	Ohio	L	28–56
Oct. 26	at Northern Illinois	L	20–59
Nov. 2	at Toledo	L	16–55
Nov. 9	Western Michigan (ot)	W	35–32
Nov. 23	Bowling Green	L	7–58
Nov. 29	at Central Michigan	L	10–42

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Kenny Jones, WR, Indianapolis, IN
2. Lemar Harris, ATH, Raleigh, NC
3. Ka'John Armstrong, OL, Detroit, MI
4. Shaq Vann, RB, South Bend, IN
5. Kyle Rachwal, LB, Warren, MI
6. Cameron Bouldin, DB, Cincinnati, OH
7. Jason Beck, CB, Indianapolis, IN
8. Tyrie Mack, CB, Raeford, NC*
9. Jesse Tate, WR, Flagstaff, AR*
10. Lion King, DL, Southfield, MI

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MAC	National
Scoring	18.8 ppg	10	112
Rushing	158.0 ypg	6	75
Passing	178.1 ypg	11	104
Total	336.1 ypg	10	109
Defense	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
Scoring	45.2 ppg	13	121
Rushing	258.3 ypg	13	121
Passing	252.6 ypg	11	94
Total	510.8 ypg	13	118
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
-12	-1.0	13	120

OFFENSE As bad as the 2–10 Eagles were in 2013, running back Bronson Hill proved to be a difference-maker, rushing for 1,101 yards with a 5.6 yards-per-carry average. It was the first 1,000-plus yard rushing season for an Eastern Michigan running back in a decade. Hill, a third-team All-MAC selection, will be a critical piece of first-year coach Chris Creighton's offense.

Hill and the other Eastern running backs aren't likely to carry the load as much under Creighton as they did under former coach Ron English. In 2013, the Eagles ran the ball on 57 percent of their offensive snaps. That was down from 59 percent in 2012. Creighton wants to be closer to a 50-50 team and is particularly excited about the prospect of sophomore quarterback Brogan Roback getting the ball into the hands of his wide receivers out of multiple offensive formations.

Roback, a Maumee, Ohio, native, is one of the highest-recruited players to sign with Eastern in decades. He was thrown into the fire as a freshman when EMU's season began to spin out of control, replacing Tyler Benz and starting the final three games of the season. Benz has since left the team, leaving Roback as the only quarterback with any experience on the roster. Roback threw for 640 yards and four touchdowns with five interceptions and a completion percentage of 42.2 in 2013.

What the Eagles lack in experience under center, they make up for at receiver and on the offensive line. Eastern brings back its top four pass-catchers, most notably second-team All-MAC tight end Tyreese Russell, and three of its five starting lineman. Right tackle Lincoln Hansen, a third-team all-conference pick in 2013, is the headliner.

Of course bringing back a bunch of players that contributed to one of the worst teams in college football in 2013 isn't necessarily a good thing.

STAT CORNER

27

Years since Eastern Michigan's last bowl appearance. Six head coaches have come and gone. Is Chris Creighton lucky number 7?

DEFENSE Eastern gave up an average of 510.8 yards and 45.2 points per game in 2013, which both ranked in the bottom 10 in the country. It was enough to drive English, who was defensive coordinator as well as head coach, mad. A tape of an expletive-filled rant from English — recorded during a defensive meeting — expedited his inevitable firing by three games.

Eastern shouldn't have to worry about any more rants — Creighton doesn't allow players or coaches in his program to swear. He may want to give the policy a second thought after seeing his defense. The Eagles are thin at nearly every position, particularly in the defensive backfield. Ike Spearman, who led the team in tackles with 82 and tied for the lead in interceptions with two, should provide stability at the linebacker position. Creighton believes the defensive line will be where his team is deepest.

SPECIALISTS Tyler Allen accumulated 1,014 yards in kickoff returns in 2013. Allen, combined with punt returners Jay Jones and true freshman Cameron Bouldin, could make Eastern dangerous in the return game. Dylan Mulder made only 6-of-11 field goals as a sophomore. Austin Barnes returns as the punter.

FINAL ANALYSIS Eastern is not the type of program that can be fixed overnight by any coach, let alone one with zero experience — as a player, assistant or head coach — at the FBS level, although no experience should be required to improve upon the four wins Eastern has accumulated the past two seasons. Creighton has a solid résumé, with an overall record of 139–46 as a head coach with stops at Ottawa (NAIA), Wabash (Division III) and Drake (FCS). His task at Eastern Michigan is immense. The Eagles have not had a winning season since 1995 and have been one of the worst FBS programs in the nation in recent years.

TYREESE RUSSELL

Walt Middleton Photography

THE QUOTE

"The thing that makes it tough there, you go to the games and there is nobody there. There is no community involvement."

— An opposing MAC assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	9	**Jay Jones (Jr.)**		Kenny Jones (Fr.)
WR	3	Dustin Creel (Jr.)		Lemar Harris (Fr.)
WR		Jesse Tate (So.)	11	Tyler Allen (Sr.)
LT	72	**Andrew Wylie (So.)**	67	Campbell Allison (Sr.)
LG	50	**Jake Hurcombe (So.)**	71	Darien Terrell (So.)
C	55	Kent Collins (Sr.)	50	Jake Hurcombe (So.)
RG	78	Robert McFadden (Sr.)		Ka'John Armstrong (Fr.)
RT	77	**Lincoln Hansen (Sr.)**	61	Jordan Erbes (Sr.)
TE	88	**Tyreese Russell (Sr.)**	81	**Duwhan Alford (So.)**
QB	4	Brogan Roback (So.)	10	Reggie Bell (Fr.)
RB	30	**Bronson Hill (Sr.)**	22	Ryan Brumfield (Sr.)

DEFENSE (5)

DE	54	Omar McFarlane (Jr.)	91	Deshai Powell (Fr.)
DT	8	**Mike Steals (So.)**	76	Travis Linser (Sr.)
DT	52	**Pat O'Connor (Jr.)**		Jeremiah Harris (Fr.)
DE	96	Mike Brown (Jr.)		Lion King (Fr.)
OLB	10	**Great Ibe (Jr.)**		Clay Dawson (Jr.)
MLB	19	**Ike Spearman (Jr.)**	43	Anthony Zappone (So.)
OLB	44	Hunter Matt (Jr.)	47	Derric Williams (So.)
CB	4	**Willie Creear (Sr.)**		Tyrie Mack (So.)
CB	1	Darius Scott (Sr.)	7	Pudge Cotton (Sr.)
FS	42	Kevin Johnson (Sr.)		Jason Beck (Fr.)
SS	7	Pudge Cotton (Sr.)		Cameron Bouldin (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	38	Dylan Mulder (Jr.)	KR	11	Tyler Allen (Sr.)
P	17	Austin Barnes (So.)	PR	9	Jay Jones (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Brogan Roback, 116-49-640-5, 4 TDs
Rushing: Bronson Hill, 196 att., 1,101 yds., 5 TDs
Receiving: Dustin Creel, 46 rec., 593 yds., 5 TDs
Tackles: Ike Spearman, 82
Sacks: Pat O'Connor, 4
Interceptions: Ike Spearman, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

NORTHERN ILLINOIS HUSKIES

NATIONAL FORECAST 77
MAC WEST PREDICTION 2

Head Coach: Rod Carey
Record at School: 12-3 (1+ year)
Career Record: 12-3 (1+ year)
Offensive Coordinator: Bob Cole
Defensive Coordinator: Jay Niemann
DeKalb, IL
Huskie Stadium (24,000)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 8-4, 6-2 (MAC)

August	
28	Presbyterian
September	
6	at Northwestern
12	at UNLV
20	at Arkansas
October	
4	Kent State
11	Central Michigan
18	Miami (Ohio)
25	at Eastern Michigan
November	
5	at Ball State
11	Toledo
18	at Ohio
28	at Western Michigan

2013 RESULTS (12-2, 8-0)

Aug. 31	at Iowa	W	30-27
Sept. 14	at Idaho	W	45-35
Sept. 21	Eastern Illinois	W	43-39
Sept. 28	at Purdue	W	55-24
Oct. 5	at Kent State	W	38-24
Oct. 12	Akron	W	27-20
Oct. 19	at Central Michigan	W	38-17
Oct. 26	Eastern Michigan	W	59-20
Nov. 2	at Massachusetts	W	63-19
Nov. 13	Ball State	W	48-27
Nov. 20	at Toledo	W	35-17
Nov. 26	Western Michigan	W	33-14
Dec. 6	vs. Bowling Green %	L	27-47
Dec. 26	vs. Utah State #	L	14-21

%Detroit #Poinsettia Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Deion Hallmon, CB, Weston, FL
2. Shane Evans, OL, Crystal Lake, IL
3. London Root, QB, Wichita, KS
4. Mayomi Olootu, DB, Allen, TX
5. David Senior, WR, Fort Lauderdale, FL
6. Christian Blake, WR, Fort Lauderdale, FL
7. Denzel Tolliver, TE, Hillside, IL
8. Russell Chambers, DE, Milwaukee, WI
9. Herlandez Corely, DE, Mobile, AL
10. Ben Compton, DE, Windsor, CT*

*junior college transfers

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MAC	National
Scoring	39.6 ppg	1	11
Rushing	297.2 ypg	1	7
Passing	222.6 ypg	5	74
Total	519.8 ypg	1	5
Defense	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
Scoring	25.1 ppg	4	52
Rushing	151.7 ypg	2	48
Passing	263.1 ypg	13	105
Total	414.9 ypg	8	78
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
+13	+0.9	2	10

OFFENSE Once known as Tailback U for its string of 1,000-yard rushers, Northern Illinois turned into Quarterback U after the sterling back-to-back careers by Chandler Harnish and Jordan Lynch. The two quarterbacks combined to win the last three MAC MVPs, with Lynch setting a new standard with consecutive MVPs and placing seventh and third, respectively, in the last two Heisman Trophy races.

Replacing the dual-threat Lynch is the main priority for Northern Illinois coach Rod Carey. Lynch, who passed for 2,892 yards and 24 touchdowns and rushed for 1,920 yards and 23 scores last season, handled the majority of the snaps the last two seasons. The top three candidates — Matt McIntosh, Drew Hare and Western Michigan transfer Anthony Maddie — all bring different elements to the offense. McIntosh, a junior, possesses the most experience, with Hare boasting the best arm and Maddie a mixture of both.

Regardless of the starter at quarterback, the running back corps should help ease the transition. This is the clearly the deepest and most talented position on the team. After rushing for 1,119 yards last season, Cameron Stingily might not even be the featured runner. Akeem Daniels, who sat out last season with a foot injury, is healthy and primed for a big role.

Often overlooked due to Lynch's big-play ability, the NIU offensive line allowed just 11 sacks in 14 games and helped generate a MAC-best 297.2 yards rushing per game last season. Count on the Huskies running the ball more this upcoming season, though the senior wide receiving tandem of Da'Ron Brown and Tommylee Lewis is polished and dangerous.

STAT CORNER

102

Career starts for Northern Illinois' returning offensive linemen. The line was as young as it was dominant in 2013.

DEFENSE This is a unit currently in the midst of a massive shakeup after losing all four starters on the defensive line and some key pieces in the secondary. A year ago, the Huskies dealt with a similar reconstruction process along the front four, so this won't be a big issue. There's plenty of experience along the line, with senior Jason Meehan and junior Perez Ford slated to start at end. Senior nose guard Donovan Gordon will demand double-teams, while tackle Mario Jones played quality minutes last year.

The linebacker group is the strength of the defense, with Jamaal Bass, Boomer Mays and Jamaal Payton forming an athletic and seasoned trio. As the leading returning tackler with 87 stops last season, Bass is a durable playmaker. Mayes, a junior, is ready for a breakout season after tallying 82 tackles last season.

Safety Jimmie Ward, called the "quarterback of the defense" by Carey, will be missed. Marlon Moore was moved from cornerback to safety in the spring.

SPECIALISTS There's no doubt that the Huskies will miss the clutch kicking of Mathew Sims. Punter Tyler Wedel is the odds-on favorite to take over the placekicking duties, becoming a possible jack-of-all-trades in handling the punting and kickoff jobs.

FINAL ANALYSIS After the best two-year run in school history, Northern Illinois faces a daunting task trying to maintain its level of excellence. There should be some early-season growing pains without Lynch's leadership and big-time production spearheading the offense. Following the season opener, the Huskies hit the road to play at Northwestern, UNLV and Arkansas.

Although NIU is loaded at several offensive positions, most notably at tailback, offensive line and wide receiver, Lynch is tough to replace. Carey is emphasizing the importance of finishing strong, with the Huskies losing their last two games last season and not winning a bowl game in the last two years. Even without Lynch, the Huskies return enough talent to contend in the tough MAC West.

TOMMYLEE LEWIS

THE QUOTE

"That's a physical football team. You have to pack your lunch when you play there. ... They have done a good job replacing guys."

— An opposing MAC assistant coach

OFFENSE (8)

WR	4	**Da'Ron Brown (Sr.)**	11	**Juwan Brescacin (Jr.)**
WR	10	**Tommylee Lewis (Sr.)**	14	Aregeros Turner (So.)
LT	75	**Tyler Loos (Sr.)**	71	Levon Myers (So.)
LG	61	**Aidan Conlon (Jr.)**	74	Lincoln Howard (So.)
C	55	**Andrew Ness (Jr.)**	59	Mike Gegner (Sr.)
RG	67	Tyler Pitt (Sr.)	65	Wes Ott (Sr.)
RT	78	**Ryan Brown (Sr.)**	70	Josh Ruka (So.)
TE	83	Luke Eakes (Sr.)	5	Desroy Maxwell (Jr.)
QB	9	Matt McIntosh (Jr.)	12	Drew Hare (So.)
FB	47	Rob Sterling (Sr.)	48	Ricky Connors (Sr.)
RB	3	Akeem Daniels (Sr.)	42	**Cameron Stingily (Sr.)**

DEFENSE (5)

DE	49	Jason Meehan (Sr.)	53	Matthew Baltimore (So.)
DT	92	Mario Jones (So.)	69	Corey Thomas (So.)
NG	94	Donovan Gordon (Sr.)	96	Michael Ippolito (So.)
DE	44	Perez Ford (Jr.)	50	Austin Smaha (So.)
OLB	6	**Jamaal Bass (Sr.)**	8	Ladell Fleming (So.)
MLB	45	**Boomer Mays (Jr.)**	40	Sean Folliard (So.)
OLB	33	Jamaal Payton (So.)	41	Cody Hazelett (So.)
CB	31	Anthony Brooks (So.)	32	Jimmy Russell (Fr.)
CB	29	**Paris Logan (Jr.)**	16	Charles Ivory (So.)
SS	2	**Marlon Moore (Jr.)**	43	Brandon Mayes (Fr.)
FS	1	**Dechane Durante (Sr.)**	13	Jackson Abresch (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	26	Tyler Wedel (Sr.)	KR	29	Paris Logan (Jr.)
P	26	Tyler Wedel (Sr.)	PR	10	Tommylee Lewis (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Drew Hare, 9-5-153-0, 2 TDs
Rushing: Cameron Stingily, 203 att., 1,119 yds., 9 TDs
Receiving: Tommylee Lewis, 86 rec., 715 yds., 3 TDs
Tackles: Jamaal Bass, 87
Sacks: Jason Meehan, 6.5
Interceptions: Dechane Durante, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Scott Walstrom/NIU Media Services

TOLEDO ROCKETS

NATIONAL FORECAST **75**
MAC WEST PREDICTION **1**

Head Coach: Matt Campbell
Record at School: 17-9 (2+ years)
Career Record: 17-9 (2+ years)
Offensive Coordinator: Jason Candle
Defensive Coordinator: Jon Heacock
Toledo, OH
Glass Bowl (26,244)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 7-6, 6-2 (MAC)

August	
30	New Hampshire
September	
6	Missouri
12	at Cincinnati
20	Ball State
27	Central Michigan
October	
4	at Western Michigan
11	at Iowa State
25	Massachusetts
November	
4	at Kent State
11	at Northern Illinois
19	Bowling Green
28	at Eastern Michigan

2013 RESULTS (7-5, 5-3)

Aug. 31	at Florida	L	6–24
Sept. 7	at Missouri	L	23–38
Sept. 14	Eastern Washington	W	33–21
Sept. 21	at Central Michigan	W	38–17
Sept. 28	at Ball State	L	24–31
Oct. 5	Western Michigan	W	47–20
Oct. 19	Navy (ot)	W	45–44
Oct. 26	at Bowling Green	W	28–25
Nov. 2	Eastern Michigan	W	55–16
Nov. 12	Buffalo	W	51–41
Nov. 20	Northern Illinois	L	17–35
Nov. 29	at Akron	L	29–31

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Anthony Davis, LB, Tampa, FL
2. Jon'Vea Johnson, ATH, Gary, IN
3. Mykale Rogers, WR, Lima , OH
4. Davi'on Riley, TE, Lake Wales, FL
5. Marcus Whitfield, WR, Massillon, OH
6. Dedric Brinson, CB, Lake Wales, FL
7. Andrew Davis, WR, St. Petersburg, FL
8. Terry Swanson, RB, Aliquippa, PA
9. Bill Weber, OL, Coppell, TX
10. Tre James, LB, Baltimore, MD

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MAC	National
Scoring	33.0 ppg	4	39
Rushing	240.6 ypg	2	14
Passing	206.8 ypg	9	86
Total	447.3 ypg	4	39
Defense	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
Scoring	28.6 ppg	7	73
Rushing	170.4 ypg	5	73
Passing	251.3 ypg	10	92
Total	421.8 ypg	10	87
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
+4	+0.3	5	38

Toledo SID

OFFENSE Toledo has maintained one of the best offensive machines in the MAC ever since it went to the spread more than a decade ago under former coach Tom Amstutz. In 2013, the Rockets were again near the top of the league in scoring (33.0 ppg) and total offense (447.3 ypg). Although it has several skill positions to fill, Toledo is once again loaded with talent and options to charge up its offense.

Sophomore Logan Woodside is the frontrunner to start at quarterback after seeing time in four games as a backup and hitting on 51.2 percent of his passes without an interception. Sophomore Kareem Hunt is the featured back after rolling up 866 yards and averaging 6.3 yards per carry in a supplemental role in 2013 behind 1,100-yard rusher David Fluellen. Filling in for the injured Fluellen, Hunt rushed for more than 100 yards in four of the final five games.

The strength and experience of the Toledo offense is up front, where four starters return. All-MAC guard Greg Mancz is a pro prospect who leads the group, along with fellow returning starters Jeff Myers at guard and Josh Hendershot and Chase Nelson at tackle. The group allowed just six sacks in 12 games last year, best in the conference.

The receiving corps is rich in talent and speed, led by junior Alonzo Russell, who has had 115 catches over the past two seasons. Seniors Dwight Macon and Justin Olack are steady performers. Junior Kishon Wilcher adds explosive speed.

STAT CORNER

6.4

Average yards to go for the Toledo offense on third down, 19th in the country. Third-and-manageable was key for the Rockets.

DEFENSE With six returning all-conference players among the 10 regulars coming back on this side of the ball, the Rockets should be a stronger defensive unit in 2014 and improve on the 421.8 yards allowed per game last season. Toledo has five of its top six tacklers returning, led by senior linebacker Junior Sylvestre.

The crew up front is deep, with a dozen players possessing a shot at making the rotation. The athleticism of the unit should allow it to pressure the quarterback in the same manner the Rockets did in 2013, when they recorded 34 sacks in 12 games. All-conference tackle Treyvon Hester anchors the middle. Senior Ray Bush and junior Allen Covington will man the ends, with junior college transfer Tre James also a part of the plan.

Sylvestre joins experienced juniors Trent Voss and Chase Murdock in a strong linebacking unit. The Rockets have nine defensive backs with experience, but when the sorting out is completed, look for seniors Cheatham Norrils and Cameron Cole to man the corners, with help from sophomore Jordan Martin. Senior Jordan Haden leads the group at safety.

SPECIALISTS Senior Jeremiah Detmer is one of the nation's most accurate placekickers, currently working a streak in which he's hit 36-of-37 field goals. Sophomore Nick Ellis looks to replace four-year starter Vince Penza at punter. Speedster Wilcher leads a deep return corps.

FINAL ANALYSIS Toledo has 17 starters back to work on purging the sour taste left from last season, when the Rockets went 7–5 overall and missed playing in a bowl game for the first time since 2009. The schedule is not easy; the Rockets play Missouri, Cincinnati and Iowa State in non-conference action and host Bowling Green, the defending league champs, from the MAC East.

Toledo has a wealth of experience and talent along its offensive front and at linebacker, but the Rockets will be featuring a new starter at quarterback — always a dangerous proposition. If Woodside emerges as viable playmaker and the defense improves, the Rockets should be right back in the MAC East title picture.

KAREEM HUNT

THE QUOTE

"They recruit well. They have talent. They have been very good on offense, and they don't mind getting in a track meet with you."

— An opposing MAC assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	9	**Alonzo Russell (Jr.)**	88	Zach Rogers (Jr.)
WR	17	Dwight Macon (Sr.)	6	Kishon Wilcher (Jr.)
WR	14	**Justin Olack (Sr.)**	83	Zach Yousey (So.)
LT	56	**Josh Hendershot (Sr.)**	68	Paul Perschon (So.)
LG	75	**Greg Mancz (Sr.)**	72	James Henry (So.)
C	57	Robert Lisowski (Sr.)	76	Elijah Nkansah (Fr.)
RG	54	**Jeff Myers (Sr.)**	58	Collin Perchinske (Jr.)
RT	65	**Chase Nelson (Sr.)**	74	Storm Norton (So.)
TE	81	**Alex Zmolik (Jr.)**	95	Michael Roberts (So.)
QB	11	Logan Woodside (So.)	12	Phillip Ely (Jr.)
RB	3	Kareem Hunt (So.)	24	Damion Jones-Moore (So.)

DEFENSE (10)

DE	99	**Allen Covington (Jr.)**	50	Adam Kulon (Fr.)
DT	91	**Treyvon Hester (So.)**	53	Chris Collins (Jr.)
DT	97	**Orion Jones (Jr.)**	52	**Marquise Moore (So.)**
DE	55	Ray Bush (Sr.)	14	Tre James (Jr.)
LB	43	**Trent Voss (Jr.)**	31	Zach Quinn (Fr.)
LB	40	**Chase Murdock (Jr.)**	44	Jaylen Coleman (So.)
LB	33	**Junior Sylvestre (Sr.)**	32	Derek Batt (Jr.)
CB	28	**Cameron Cole (Sr.)**	27	Jordan Martin (So.)
CB	11	**Cheatham Norrils (Sr.)**	5	Chris Dukes (Jr.)
FS	4	Jordan Haden (Sr.)	20	Juwan Haynes (Jr.)
SS	25	**Chaz Whittaker (Jr.)**	23	DeJuan Rogers (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	85	Jeremiah Detmer (Sr.)	KR	6	Kishon Wilcher (Jr.)
P	93	Nick Ellis (So.)	PR	6	Kishon Wilcher (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Logan Woodside, 41-21-240-0, 1 TD
Rushing: Kareem Hunt, 137 att., 866 yds., 6 TDs
Receiving: Alonzo Russell, 59 rec., 728 yds., 6 TDs
Tackles: Junior Sylvestre, 118
Sacks: Junior Sylvestre, 5
Interceptions: Chaz Whittaker, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

WESTERN MICHIGAN BRONCOS

NATIONAL FORECAST 119
MAC WEST PREDICTION 5

Head Coach: P.J. Fleck
Record at School: 1-11 (1 year)
Career Record: 1-11 (1 year)
Offensive Coordinator: Kirk Ciarrocca
Defensive Coordinator: Ed Pinkham
Kalamazoo, MI
Waldo Stadium (30,200)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 3-9, 1-7 (MAC)

August	
30	at Purdue
September	
13	at Idaho
20	Murray State
27	at Virginia Tech
October	
4	Toledo
11	at Ball State
18	at Bowling Green
25	Ohio
November	
1	at Miami (Ohio)
15	Eastern Michigan
22	at Central Michigan
28	Northern Illinois

2013 RESULTS (1-11, 1-7)

Aug. 30	at Michigan State	L	13–26
Sept. 7	Nicholls	L	23–27
Sept. 14	at Northwestern	L	17–38
Sept. 21	at Iowa	L	3–59
Sept. 28	Kent State	L	14–32
Oct. 5	at Toledo	L	20–47
Oct. 12	Buffalo	L	0–33
Oct. 19	Ball State	L	17–38
Oct. 26	at Massachusetts	W	31–30
Nov. 9	at Eastern Michigan (ot)	L	32–35
Nov. 16	Central Michigan	L	22–27
Nov. 26	at Northern Illinois	L	14–33

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Lonnie Johnson, WR, Merrillville, IN
2. Chance Stewart, QB, Sturgis, MI
3. Jakevin Jackson, LB, Milledgeville, GA*
4. Chukwuma Okorfafor, OL, Southfield, MI
5. Javonte Seabury, WR, Orlando, FL
6. Jason Sylva, LB, Franklin, MA*
7. Jay Harris, WR, Exton, PA
8. Robert Spillane, LB, Oak Park, IL
9. Jarvion Franklin, RB, Tinley Park, IL
10. Deontae Brown, DB, Chicago, IL

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MAC	National
Scoring	17.2 ppg	11	116
Rushing	116.2 ypg	12	112
Passing	211.0 ypg	7	83
Total	327.2 ypg	11	110
Defense	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
Scoring	35.4 ppg	11	104
Rushing	250.0 ypg	12	118
Passing	169.2 ypg	1	4
Total	419.2 ypg	9	85
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MAC**	**National**
-8	-0.7	12	107

OFFENSE Name the position on Western Michigan's offense, and second-year coach P.J. Fleck will explain the uncertainty surrounding it. And at almost every spot, the 33-year-old Fleck is expecting a freshman to challenge to start, or at least to play. It's a product of having the MAC's top-rated recruiting class join a program that finished last season 1–11. "I've never been on a team like this, where every job is open," Fleck says.

That includes quarterback, where the competition is between sophomore Zach Terrell and incoming freshman Chance Stewart. A local product from Sturgis, Mich., the 6'6" Stewart is a pro-style quarterback who originally committed to Wisconsin. The less-heralded Terrell isn't likely to give up the gig quietly. Little was expected of him as an injury sub last season. But Terrell's first career pass went for a touchdown at Michigan State, and in passing for 1,602 yards and eight touchdowns, he wound up having a better year than oft-injured starter Tyler Van Tubbergen.

MAC Freshman of the Year Corey Davis gives WMU a go-to target. The 6'2" Davis, who Fleck says has added 10 pounds of muscle, caught 67 passes for 941 yards and six TDs in his first go-round. Second-leading receiver Kendrick Roberts (23 catches) also returns, but the Broncos' second option this fall might be freshman Darius Phillips, redshirted last season for academic reasons. Phillips is considered the fastest player on the team.

Diminutive running back Dareyon Chance, last season's leading rusher with 692 yards, was granted a medical redshirt for a fifth season. However, three touted true freshmen — Jarvion Franklin, Jamauri Bogan and Leo Ekwoge — are expected to be in the mix.

Whether they have anywhere to run will be up to an offensive line woefully short on depth. Four starters return, including junior center/guard James Kristof and junior left tackle Willie Beavers, but behind them is mostly a list of freshmen.

STAT CORNER

15

Three-star signees in Western Michigan's 2014 recruiting class. The rest of the MAC averaged 4.1 per class.

DEFENSE The strength of the entire team is its secondary, a crew highlighted by All-MAC senior corner Donald Celiscar and hard-hitting senior safety Justin Currie, the MAC's fourth-leading tackler in 2013. Celiscar and Currie accounted for six of the Broncos' eight interceptions last season. Safety Rontavious Atkins started three games last season before a knee injury forced him to redshirt.

In front of this secondary, however, are a plethora of questions and youth, beginning at linebacker. There, WMU is counting on junior Devon Brant — coming off ACL surgery — in the middle.

Nose guard Richard Ash, a graduate transfer from Michigan, gives a defensive line heavy on freshmen and sophomores a needed infusion of experience and Big Ten beef.

SPECIALISTS Amid these countless uncertainties, the Broncos catch a break on special teams, where placekicker Andrew Haldeman and punter J. Schroeder, both juniors, return. Haldeman made 16-of-20 field goals last season, including 3-of-4 from beyond 40 yards, on a team that couldn't afford to miss out on points. Schroeder averaged a modest 39.7 yards per punt.

FINAL ANALYSIS Fleck strolled into Kalamazoo with plenty of bravado, ignoring critics of his age and his "Row the Boat" mantra. A humbling season did nothing to slow recruiting — Rivals ranked his 2014 class No. 59 nationally, ahead of Iowa, Northwestern, Purdue and Illinois — or his optimism for the future.

In the short term, Fleck sounds more realistic than a year ago, and more comfortable in his skin, aware that the odds are stacked against a team with only 29 upperclassmen, not enough of them up front on either side of the ball. "It's a patient process, which in college football isn't the friendliest process," he says.

COREY DAVIS

THE QUOTE

"I am not exactly sure what they are trying to do. They didn't look the same as they used to. Not sure what P.J. (Fleck) is doing there."

— An opposing MAC assistant coach

OFFENSE (8)

WR	84	**Corey Davis (So.)**	5	**Timmy Keith (Jr.)**
WR	14	Darius Phillips (Fr.)	8	Daniel Braverman (So.)
WR	6	**Kendrick Roberts (Jr.)**	4	Jay Harris (Fr.)
LT	70	**Willie Beavers (Jr.)**		Elliot Jordan (Fr.)
LG	65	Jackson Day (So.)	76	Josh Bass (Fr.)
C	79	**James Kristof (Jr.)**	85	Mario Rodriguez (Sr.)
RG	71	**Jon Hoffing (Sr.)**		Curtis Doyle (Fr.)
RT	72	**Taylor Moton (So.)**		Chukwuma Okorafor (Fr.)
TE	89	Eric Boyden (Jr.)	88	Lucas Bezerra (Fr.)
QB	11	**Zach Terrell (So.)**		Chance Stewart (Fr.)
RB	22	Dareyon Chance (Sr.)	3	Fabian Johnson (So.)

DEFENSE (4)

DE	5	Andre Turner (Fr.)	98	**Jarrell McKinney (Jr.)**
DT	8	Cleveland Smith (Jr.)	15	Jamar Simpkins (So.)
DT	68	David Curle (So.)		Richard Ash (Sr.)
DE	12	Keion Adams (So.)		Nathan Braster (Fr.)
SLB	27	Trevor Ishmael (Sr.)	4	Edward Rolle (So.)
MLB	11	Devon Brant (Jr.)		Jason Sylva (Jr.)
WLB	38	Austin Lewis (So.)		Robert Spillane (Fr.)
CB	34	**Donald Celiscar (Sr.)**	6	Asantay Brown (Fr.)
CB	7	**Ronald Zamort (Jr.)**	21	Garrett Smith (Sr.)
FS	1	Rontavious Atkins (Sr.)		Deontae Brown (Fr.)
SS	33	**Justin Currie (Sr.)**	17	Justin Ferguson (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	45	Andrew Haldeman (Jr.)	KR	22	Dareyon Chance (Sr.)
P	37	J. Schroeder (Jr.)	PR	6	Asantay Brown (Fr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Zach Terrell, 251-133-1,602-8, 8 TDs
Rushing: Dareyon Chance, 151 att., 692 yds., 3 TDs
Receiving: Corey Davis, 67 rec., 941 yds., 6 TDs
Tackles: Justin Currie, 113
Sacks: 4 players tied with 1
Interceptions: Justin Currie, 3; Donald Celiscar, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

GS Photo/WMU Athletics

ATHLON SPORTS

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MOUNTAIN WEST PREVIEW

JAY AJAYI, BOISE STATE

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

MOUNTAIN

1. BOISE STATE **BRONCOS** 11-2, 7-1 MW
2. UTAH STATE **AGGIES** 9-4, 6-2 MW
3. COLORADO STATE **RAMS** 7-5, 5-3 MW
4. WYOMING **COWBOYS** 5-7, 3-5 MW
5. AIR FORCE **FALCONS** 4-8, 1-7 MW
6. NEW MEXICO **LOBOS** 3-9, 1-7 MW

WEST

1. FRESNO STATE **BULLDOGS** 8-5, 7-1 MW
2. NEVADA **WOLF PACK** 6-6, 5-3 MW
3. SAN DIEGO STATE **AZTECS** 7-5, 5-3 MW
4. UNLV **REBELS** 5-7, 4-4 MW
5. SAN JOSE STATE **SPARTANS** 4-8, 3-5 MW
6. HAWAII **RAINBOW WARRIORS** 2-11, 1-7 MW

MW CHAMPIONSHIP GAME: BOISE STATE OVER FRESNO STATE

2014 UNIT RANKINGS

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
AIR FORCE	9	10	11	8	12	10	11
BOISE STATE	5	1	1	4	1	3	1
COLORADO STATE	4	12	3	9	10	4	6
FRESNO STATE	3	2	4	2	5	2	2
HAWAII	12	11	10	12	6	8	9
NEVADA	2	5	8	6	8	9	8
NEW MEXICO	8	9	12	5	11	11	12
SAN DIEGO STATE	6	6	9	3	3	5	5
SAN JOSE STATE	10	4	7	11	7	6	7
UNLV	7	7	2	1	9	12	3
UTAH STATE	1	8	6	10	2	1	4
WYOMING	11	3	5	7	4	7	10

Ajayi: AP Photo/Otto Kitsinger; Keeton: AP Photo/Mark J. Terrill

2013 MW STANDINGS

MOUNTAIN	MW	OVERALL	WEST	MW	OVERALL
UTAH STATE	7-1	9-5	FRESNO STATE	7-1	11-2
BOISE STATE	6-2	8-5	SAN DIEGO STATE	6-2	8-5
COLORADO STATE	5-3	8-6	SAN JOSE STATE	5-3	6-6
WYOMING	3-5	5-7	UNLV	5-3	7-6
NEW MEXICO	1-7	3-9	NEVADA	3-5	4-8
AIR FORCE	0-8	2-10	HAWAII	0-8	1-11

CHUCKIE KEETON, UTAH STATE

2014 MW BOWL PROJECTIONS

LAS VEGAS BOWL Boise State vs. Arizona
NEW ORLEANS BOWL Utah State vs. UL Lafayette
POINSETTIA BOWL Fresno State vs. Navy
HAWAII BOWL Colorado State vs. Rice
FAMOUS IDAHO POTATO BOWL Nevada vs. Ball State
NEW MEXICO BOWL San Diego State vs. North Texas

2013 MW BOWL RESULTS

NEW MEXICO BOWL Colorado State 48, Washington State 45
LAS VEGAS BOWL USC 45, Fresno State 20
FAMOUS IDAHO POTATO BOWL San Diego State 49, Buffalo 24
HAWAII BOWL Oregon State 38, Boise State 23
POINSETTIA BOWL Utah State 21, Northern Illinois 14
HEART OF DALLAS BOWL North Texas 36, UNLV 14

RECRUITING BY SCHOOL

1. Boise State 2. San Diego State 3. Fresno State 4. San Jose State 5. Colorado State 6. Nevada 7. New Mexico 8. Hawaii 9. Utah State 10. Air Force 11. Wyoming 12. UNLV

PRESEASON ALL-MW TEAM

FIRST-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	CHUCKIE KEETON	6-2	200	Sr.	Utah State
RB	JAY AJAYI	6-0	216	Jr.	Boise State
RB	DONNEL PUMPHREY	5-9	170	So.	San Diego State
WR	DEVANTE DAVIS	6-3	210	Sr.	UNLV
WR	MATT MILLER	6-3	220	Sr.	Boise State
TE	KIVON CARTWRIGHT	6-4	245	Sr.	Colorado State
C	ROBERT WATERMAN	6-2	290	Sr.	UNLV
G	LAMAR BRATTON	6-0	291	Sr.	New Mexico
G	CODY WICHMANN	6-6	311	Sr.	Fresno State
T	BRETT BOYKO	6-7	310	Sr.	UNLV
T	TY SAMBRAILO	6-5	310	Sr.	Colorado State

FIRST-TEAM DEFENSE

DL	TYELER DAVISON	6-2	304	Sr.	Fresno State
DL	BROCK HEKKING	6-4	255	Sr.	Nevada
DL	EDDIE YARBROUGH	6-3	257	Jr.	Wyoming
DL	TRAVIS RACITI	6-5	290	Sr.	San Jose State
LB	EJIRO EDERAINE	6-3	220	Jr.	Fresno State
LB	KYLER FACKRELL	6-5	245	Jr.	Utah State
LB	ZACH VIGIL	6-2	232	Sr.	Utah State
CB	DONTE DEAYON	5-9	152	Jr.	Boise State
CB	J.J. WHITTAKER	5-10	180	Sr.	San Diego State
S	JEREMY IOANE	5-10	192	Sr.	Boise State
S	DERRON SMITH	5-11	200	Sr.	Fresno State

FIRST-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	JARED ROBERTS	6-1	205	Sr.	Colorado State
P	GARRETT SWANSON	6-0	213	Jr.	Fresno State
KR	CARLOS WIGGINS	5-8	157	Jr.	New Mexico
PR	SHANE WILLIAMS-RHODES	5-6	160	Jr.	Boise State

SECOND-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	CODY FAJARDO	6-2	215	Sr.	Nevada
RB	JARROD LAWSON	5-8	190	So.	San Jose State
RB	SHAUN WICK	5-10	204	Jr.	Wyoming
WR	JOSH HARPER	6-1	184	Sr.	Fresno State
WR	RASHARD HIGGINS	6-2	180	So.	Colorado State
TE	BILLY FREEMAN	6-3	235	So.	San Jose State
C	MATT GALAS	6-1	280	Sr.	Nevada
G	CAMERON JEFFERSON	6-6	300	Sr.	UNLV
G	JAKE JONES	6-3	295	Jr.	Wyoming
T	TERRY POOLE	6-5	310	Sr.	San Diego State
T	KEVIN WHIMPEY	6-5	295	Sr.	Utah State

SECOND-TEAM DEFENSE

DL	B.J. LARSEN	6-5	275	Sr.	Utah State
DL	BRETT BOWERS	6-2	270	Sr.	New Mexico
DL	BEAU YAP	6-2	260	Sr.	Hawaii
DL	SAM MEREDITH	6-4	290	Sr.	San Diego State
LB	JAKE FELY	5-10	215	Sr.	San Diego State
LB	CORY JAMES	6-0	240	Jr.	Colorado State
LB	BEN WEAVER	6-0	240	So.	Boise State
CB	CHARLES GARRETT	5-11	205	Sr.	Nevada
CB	TAJH HASSON	6-1	195	Sr.	UNLV
S	BRIAN SUITE	6-3	205	Sr.	Utah State
S	PENI VEA	6-1	200	Jr.	UNLV

SECOND-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	AUSTIN LOPEZ	6-0	187	Jr.	San Jose State
P	ETHAN WOOD	6-3	165	So.	Wyoming
KR	MARCUS SULLIVAN	5-9	195	Sr.	UNLV
PR	JOJO NATSON	5-7	151	Jr.	Utah State

AIR FORCE FALCONS

NATIONAL FORECAST **105**
MW MOUNTAIN PREDICTION **5**

Head Coach: Troy Calhoun
Record at School: 49-41 (7 years)
Career Record: 49-41 (7 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Clay Hendrix
Defensive Coordinator: Steve Russ
Colorado Springs, CO
Falcon Stadium (46,692)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 4-8, 1-7 (MW)

August	
30	Nicholls State
September	
6	at Wyoming
13	at Georgia State
27	Boise State
October	
4	Navy
11	at Utah State
18	New Mexico
November	
1	at Army
8	at UNLV
15	Nevada
22	at San Diego State
28	Colorado State

2013 RESULTS (2-10, 0-8)

Aug. 31	Colgate	W	38–13
Sept. 7	Utah State	L	20–52
Sept. 13	at Boise State	L	20–42
Sept. 21	Wyoming	L	23–56
Sept. 28	at Nevada	L	42–45
Oct. 5	at Navy	L	10–28
Oct. 10	San Diego State	L	20–27
Oct. 26	Notre Dame	L	10–45
Nov. 2	Army	W	42–28
Nov. 8	at New Mexico	L	37–45
Nov. 21	UNLV	L	21–41
Nov. 30	at Colorado State	L	13–58

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Keenan Curran, DB, Federal Way, WA
2. Nasiir Edwards, DB, Lithonia GA
3. Jason Elenberger, QB, Carmichael, CA
4. Jake LaCoste, RB, West Albany, OR
5. Matt Moskowitz, P, Milton, GA
6. Alex Backenstoe, FB, Hilliard, OH
7. Robert Bullard, DB, Covington, GA
8. John Batch, DB, Merritt Island, FL
9. Matt Jacques, DE, Encino, CA
10. Michael Shaw, OL, Creekview, GA

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MW	National
Scoring	24.7 ppg	12	91
Rushing	262.7 ypg	2	12
Passing	104.9 ypg	12	121
Total	367.6 ypg	12	91
Defense	**Per Game**	**MW**	**National**
Scoring	40.0 ppg	11	116
Rushing	250.6 ypg	10	119
Passing	239.7 ypg	3	77
Total	490.3 ypg	9	114
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MW**	**National**
-4	-0.3	7	86

OFFENSE Nate Romine directed a diverse offense last season, at least by Air Force standards. Romine is the rare Falcons quarterback who is a better passer than runner. The Falcons went to six straight bowl games with a run-oriented offense. They stayed home last season with a 2–10 record employing their more diverse attack.

Coach Troy Calhoun faces a complicated decision for 2014. Does he go with Romine, the superior passer, or Kale Pearson, the superior runner? A run-first attack will keep opposing offenses off the field. The struggle between Romine and Pearson will define the season. Pearson is returning from a surgically repaired right knee, but he's such a gifted runner that he might return kickoffs if he fails to win the starting quarterback job.

Senior tailback Jon Lee has long been a can't-miss future star for the Falcons. He boasts sprinter's speed and strength, and he's elusive in the open field. But nagging ankle and elbow injuries might prevent Lee from reaching his considerable potential. Broam Hart, who played fullback last season, could switch to tailback while Lee watches, yet again, from the bench.

Under assistant coach Clay Hendrix's direction, the Falcons' offensive line consistently ranks as one of the nation's most athletic. Air Force linemen are often seen decking defenders 20 yards from the line of scrimmage. Center Michael Husar leads what could be a dominating unit.

When watching wide receiver Jalen Robinette, the question arises: Why did this big, fast, gifted pass-catcher decide to play for a running team? If Romine wins the quarterback job, Robinette will become one of the Mountain West's most dangerous receivers. Sam Gagliano could serve as an effective sidekick to Robinette but must solve his habit of dropping passes.

STAT CORNER

1.07

Increase in yards per play allowed by the Air Force defense in Mountain West games from 2012 (5.74) to '13 (6.81). The Falcons gave up 546.6 yards per game in MW action, up from 399.1 in 2012.

DEFENSE The Falcons return seven defensive starters, but here's the key question of the 2014 season: Is that good news? Air Force's defense was comically inept last season, surrendering averages of 40.0 points and 490.3 yards of total offense per game.

There is hope. Joey Nichol, if healthy, and Spencer Proctor lead an aggressive group of linebackers, and Weston Steelhammer, Christian Spears and Dexter Walker bring attitude at safety.

The Falcons need to find a way to get more pressure on the quarterback. No one on the Falcons' defensive front weighs more than 265 pounds. Air Force employed three down linemen during most of last season but tinkered with formations in the offseason. The Falcons could surprise opponents with a 2-5 alignment in the fall.

SPECIALISTS Will Conant owns an accurate (11-of-13 last season) and powerful leg. He should rank among the Mountain West's top placekickers. The punting job is wide open.

FINAL ANALYSIS Calhoun arrived in 2007 to rescue a program that struggled in the final years of Fisher DeBerry's guidance. He revived the Falcons with players recruited by DeBerry, but the program has gradually regressed with players recruited by Calhoun, who has lost 14 of his last 17 games. Lack of talent and size were the glaring problems last season. The 2014 team is more experienced but still lacks the talent to thrive in the Mountain West. Calhoun needs the running attack to dominate once again. Pearson runs with the speed and elusiveness of a tailback, and he's capable of leading the Air Force offense — which ranked last in the Mountain West last season in yards per game — back to prominence.

However, for this team to flirt with a winning record, the defense — which gave up an astounding 51 touchdowns in eight Mountain West games — must show significant improvement.

CHRISTIAN SPEARS

THE QUOTE

"In that offense, the quarterback is the key. Everything goes through the QB. When that position stabilizes for them, they will improve."

— An opposing Mountain West assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	9	Jalen Robinette (So.)	**15**	**Alex Ludowig (Jr.)**
WR	**4**	**Sam Gagliano (Sr.)**	7	Garrett Brown (Jr.)
LT	74	Sevrin Remmo (Jr.)	**72**	**Matt Rochell (Jr.)**
LG	60	Jimmy Manuel (Sr.)	56	Colin Sandor (So.)
C	**65**	**Michael Husar (Sr.)**	63	David Jones (Sr.)
RG	58	Andrew Ruechel (Jr.)	64	Patrick Noyes (Sr.)
RT	70	Arinze Uzo-Okereke (Jr.)	75	Luke Brantley (Jr.)
TE	80	Garrett Griffin (Jr.)	85	Marcus Hendricks (Sr.)
QB	2	Kale Pearson (Sr.)	6	Nate Romine (So.)
TB	31	Devin Rushing (Jr.)	24	Jon Lee (Sr.)
FB	**32**	**Broam Hart (Sr.)**	42	Shayne Davern (So.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	93	Samuel Byers (So.)	**97**	**Nick Fitzgerald (Sr.)**
NG	91	Troy Timmerman (Sr.)	53	David Harris (So.)
DE	**87**	**Alex Hansen (Jr.)**	40	Ryan Watson (So.)
OLB	47	Claude Alexander (So.)	41	Patrick Healy (So.)
ILB	**49**	**Joey Nichol (Sr.)**	6	Connor Healy (Jr.)
ILB	**36**	**Spencer Proctor (Sr.)**	39	Kellen Cleveland (So.)
OLB	**5**	**Dexter Walker (Jr.)**	46	Jacob Onyechi (So.)
CB	2	Jordan Mays (Sr.)	28	Kalon Baker (Jr.)
CB	25	Roland Ladipo (So.)	17	Jamal Byrd (Sr.)
FS	**21**	**Christian Spears (Sr.)**	29	Gavin McHenry (Jr.)
SS	16	Weston Steelhammer (So.)	**5**	**Dexter Walker (Jr.)**

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	30	Will Conant (Sr.)	KR	24	Jon Lee (Sr.)
P	32	Brett Dunn (So.)	PR	9	Jalen Robinette (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Nate Romine, 81-44-603-1, 5 TDs
Rushing: Broam Hart, 113 att., 469 yds., 6 TDs
Receiving: Garrett Brown, 19 rec., 237 yds., 1 TD
Tackles: Christian Spears, 92
Sacks: David Harris, 2.5
Interceptions: Christian Spears, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Air Force SID

BOISE STATE BRONCOS

NATIONAL FORECAST **46**
MW MOUNTAIN PREDICTION **1**

Head Coach: Bryan Harsin
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: 7-5 (1 year)
Offensive Coordinator: Mike Sanford
Defensive Coordinator: Marcel Yates
Boise, ID
Bronco Stadium (37,000)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 11-2, 7-1 (MW)

August	
28	vs. Ole Miss #
September	
6	Colorado State
13	at Connecticut
20	UL Lafayette
27	at Air Force
October	
4	at Nevada
17	Fresno State
24	BYU
November	
8	at New Mexico
15	San Diego State
22	at Wyoming
29	Utah State

#Atlanta, GA

2013 RESULTS (8-5, 6-2)

Aug. 31	at Washington	L	6–38
Sept. 7	Tennessee-Martin	W	63–14
Sept. 13	Air Force	W	42–20
Sept. 20	at Fresno State	L	40–41
Sept. 28	Southern Miss	W	60–7
Oct. 12	at Utah State	W	34–23
Oct. 19	Nevada	W	34–17
Oct. 25	at BYU	L	20–37
Nov. 2	at Colorado State	W	42–30
Nov. 16	Wyoming	W	48–7
Nov. 23	at San Diego State (ot)	L	31–34
Nov. 30	New Mexico	W	45–17
Dec. 24	vs. Oregon State #	L	23–38

#Hawaii Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Dylan Sumner-Gardner, S, Mesquite, TX
2. Chase Blakley, TE, Coeur d'Alene, ID
3. Cory Young, RB, Norco, CA
4. Troy Bacon, OL, Apple Valley, CA
5. Jabril Frazier, DE, Los Angeles
6. David Lucero, TE, Holtville, CA
7. Rondell McNair, DL, New Bern, NC*
8. Antoine Turner, DL, New Orleans, LA*
9. Tennessee Su'esu'e, OL, Salt Lake City, UT
10. David Moa, DT, San Diego, CA

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MW	National
Scoring	37.5 ppg	2	19
Rushing	198.3 ypg	4	33
Passing	277.7 ypg	5	27
Total	476.0 ypg	3	20
Defense	**Per Game**	**MW**	**National**
Scoring	24.8 ppg	2	50
Rushing	164.2 ypg	5	64
Passing	249.2 ypg	6	88
Total	413.4 ypg	3	75
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MW**	**National**
+3	+0.2	4	42

Boise State Media Relations

OFFENSE New coach Bryan Harsin, the Broncos' offensive coordinator from 2006-10, and offensive coordinator Mike Sanford, a former Boise State quarterback and Stanford assistant, hope to revive an offense that was one of college football's signature units for a decade. The Broncos tumbled to 54th in the nation in scoring (30.2 ppg) in 2012, when they failed to score an offensive touchdown twice, and improved to 19th (37.5 ppg) in 2013, when they still struggled mightily against quality defenses.

Senior quarterback Grant Hedrick is the starter after taking the vast majority of snaps in the last seven games last season. He produced 22 total touchdowns but also nine turnovers.

He is surrounded by three dynamic playmakers who need some help to emerge in fall camp. Junior tailback Jay Ajayi rushed for 1,425 yards and 18 touchdowns last season; senior wide receiver Matt Miller is on pace to break the school record for career receptions and finished last season on a crazy roll (636 yards, 10 TDs in five games); and junior wide receiver Shane Williams-Rhodes is a slippery 5'6" dynamo. Harsin and Sanford expect to bring the tight end back to its former glory in the Broncos' offense, and their leading candidate is redshirt freshman Jake Roh, a spring standout.

The offensive line is a major question mark. Two starters return but have changed positions — junior Marcus Henry from guard to center and junior Rees Odhiambo from right tackle to left tackle. The other three starters likely will come from the freshman and sophomore classes.

STAT CORNER

2007

The last time Boise State had finished a season unranked until 2013's stumble to 8–5. Bryan Harsin inherits a program in transition.

DEFENSE The Broncos' usually dominant defense also fell on hard times last year, particularly on the road. They allowed at least 30 points in five of six road games.

The pass defense, which ranked in the top five nationally in efficiency in three of the previous five seasons, plummeted to 88th. Marcel Yates, the defensive backs coach from 2006-11, arrives as the coordinator after two years as the co-coordinator at Texas A&M.

Six starters on the back end return. Linebackers Ben Weaver and Tanner Vallejo combined for 140 tackles last season as freshmen despite not playing full seasons. Junior cornerback Donte Deayon, who intercepted six passes, and senior safety Jeremy Ioane, who made 59 tackles, were All-Mountain West second-teamers. Corey Bell could be the X-factor — he was the second-leading tackler as a linebacker last year but moves to a safety-like nickel role this year.

The defensive line has quality front-line talent — sophomore ends Gabe Perez and Kamalei Correa and junior tackle Armand Nance are up-and-comers — but lacks depth. Junior college transfers Antoine Turner and Rondell McNair and true freshman Dereck Boles need to contribute.

SPECIALISTS Kicker Dan Goodale missed only two field-goal attempts last season, but one was a potential game-winner at the end of regulation before the Broncos lost in overtime at San Diego State. That loss cost them a spot in the Mountain West title game. Punter Sean Wale needs to level his play. Kickoff returner Bryan Douglas and punt returner Williams-Rhodes are weapons.

FINAL ANALYSIS Coming off an 8–5 season — the Broncos' worst since 1998 — there is hope for a quick turnaround with an experienced roster and a new energy created by the coaching change. The schedule sets up well with Fresno State, San Diego State and Utah State set to visit Boise, but the Broncos will count largely on the same players who failed to win the Mountain West Mountain Division last year. They need Hedrick and the veteran defenders to make noticeable leaps and that young offensive line to jell quickly — particularly if they hope to impress a national audience in the made-for-TV opener against Ole Miss in Atlanta.

JAY AJAYI

THE QUOTE

"They will really feel the loss of Chris Petersen. Bryan Harsin was there before, but everyone has their own way of doing things."

— An opposing Mountain West assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	2	**Matt Miller (Sr.)**	83	Tanner Shipley (Fr.)
WR	11	**Shane Williams-Rhodes (Jr.)**	82	Thomas Sperbeck (So.)
WR	82	Thomas Sperbeck (So.)	14	Troy Ware (Jr.)
LT	71	**Rees Odhiambo (Jr.)**	76	Jerhen Ertel (Jr.)
LG	66	Mario Yakoo (So.)	60	Kellen Buhr (So.)
C	72	**Marcus Henry (Jr.)**	52	Andrew Tercek (Fr.)
RG	73	Travis Averill (So.)	79	Avery Westendorf (So.)
RT	74	Archie Lewis (Fr.)	70	Steven Baggett (So.)
TE	88	Jake Roh (Fr.)	89	Connor Peters (Sr.)
QB	9	Grant Hedrick (Sr.)	15	Ryan Finley (Fr.)
RB	27	**Jay Ajayi (Jr.)**	21	Jack Fields (Jr.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	53	Beau Martin (Sr.)	94	Sam McCaskill (So.)
DT	40	**Armand Nance (Jr.)**	90	Justin Taimatuia (Sr.)
DT	69	Tyler Horn (Sr.)		Antoine Turner (Jr.)
DE	33	Gabe Perez (So.)	92	Kamalei Correa (So.)
WLB	51	Ben Weaver (So.)	36	**Tyler Gray (Jr.)**
MLB	20	Tanner Vallejo (So.)	13	Blake Renaud (Sr.)
NB	38	**Corey Bell (Sr.)**	19	Mercy Maston (Sr.)
CB	5	**Donte Deayon (Jr.)**	1	**Bryan Douglas (Sr.)**
CB	30	Jonathan Moxey (So.)	3	Cleshawn Page (Sr.)
S	4	**Darian Thompson (Jr.)**	28	Dillon Lukehart (Jr.)
S	10	**Jeremy Ioane (Sr.)**	29	Dylan Sumner-Gardner (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	41	Dan Goodale (Sr.)	KR 1	Bryan Douglas (Sr.)
P	26	Sean Wale (So.)	PR 11	Shane Williams-Rhodes (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Grant Hedrick 242-167-1,829-5, 16 TDs
Rushing: Jay Ajayi, 249 att., 1,425 yds., 18 TDs
Receiving: Shane Williams-Rhodes, 77 rec., 702 yds., 6 TDs
Tackles: Ben Weaver, 89
Sacks: Beau Martin, 4
Interceptions: Donte Deayon, 6

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

COLORADO STATE RAMS

NATIONAL FORECAST 74
MW MOUNTAIN PREDICTION 3

Head Coach: Jim McElwain
Record at School: 12-14 (2 years)
Career Record: 12-14 (2 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Dave Baldwin
Co-Defensive Coordinators: Marty English, Al Simmons
Fort Collins, CO
Hughes Stadium (32,500)

2014 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 7-5, 5-3 (MW)

August	
29	vs. Colorado #
September	
6	at Boise State
13	UC Davis
27	at Boston College
October	
4	Tulsa
11	at Nevada
18	Utah State
25	Wyoming
November	
1	at San Jose State
8	Hawaii
22	New Mexico
28	at Air Force

#Denver, CO

2013 RESULTS (8-6, 5-3)

Sept. 1	vs. Colorado %	L	27-41
Sept. 7	at Tulsa	L	27-30
Sept. 14	Cal Poly	W	34-17
Sept. 21	at Alabama	L	6-31
Sept. 28	UTEP	W	59-42
Oct. 12	San Jose State	L	27-34
Oct. 19	at Wyoming	W	52-22
Oct. 26	at Hawaii	W	35-28
Nov. 2	Boise State	L	30-42
Nov. 9	Nevada	W	38-17
Nov. 16	at New Mexico	W	66-42
Nov. 23	at Utah State	L	0-13
Nov. 30	Air Force	W	58-13
Dec. 21	vs. Washington State #	W	48-45

%Denver #New Mexico Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Silvester Hayes, DE, Dallas, TX
2. Deionte Gaines, WR, Orlando, FL
3. Coleman Key, QB, Broken Arrow, OK
4. Deron Thompson, RB, Wichita, KS
5. Jyaz Jones, DB, Dallas, TX
6. Steven Walker, TE, Wichita, KS*
7. Christian Montes, TE, Garden Grove, CA*
8. Preston Hodges, DB, Bakersfield, CA*
9. Marcus Wilson, DB, Aurora, CO
10. Jordan Finley, T, Roseville, CA*

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MW	National
Scoring	36.2 ppg	3	22
Rushing	204.4 ypg	3	27
Passing	266.4 ypg	6	30
Total	470.8 ypg	5	24
Defense	**Per Game**	**MW**	**National**
Scoring	29.8 ppg	3	81
Rushing	140.6 ypg	3	30
Passing	275.7 ypg	10	114
Total	416.3 ypg	4	80
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MW**	**National**
+2	+0.1	6	53

OFFENSE With running back Kapri Bibbs leaving early for the NFL after setting school records with his 1,741 rushing yards and 31 touchdowns last season, the Rams are likely to air it out a bit more this season. Quarterback Garrett Grayson, now a senior, threw for a school-record 3,696 yards and 23 touchdowns in 2013 while directing the most productive offense in CSU history. The Rams averaged 470.8 yards per game.

Coach Jim McElwain likes his receiving corps. Sophomore Rashard Higgins, last year's leader with 68 catches for 837 yards and six TDs, is back, as are four others who caught 20 or more passes. Senior Kivon Cartwright, who had 27 catches for 462 yards and six TDs as the second tight end, should become one of Grayson's favorite targets.

Converted safety Jasen Oden and redshirt freshman Bryce Peters battled for the starting job at running back during spring drills and will get some added competition from true freshmen Deron Thompson and Johnathan Lewis. Donnell Alexander, the leading rusher two years ago, chose to transfer with two years of eligibility remaining.

Rebuilding the offensive line will be a challenge, given that star center Weston Richburg and three of the other four starters last year were seniors. But McElwain and his staff like the players who were backing them up last year and don't believe there will be much of a drop-off.

STAT CORNER

5.1

Points per trip inside the 40 averaged by the Rams, fifth in the country. Meanwhile, they allowed 4.1 (60th).

DEFENSE Although outside linebacker Shaquil Barrett, the Mountain West Defensive Player of the Year, is gone, seven defensive starters return, including leading tacklers Max Morgan and Aaron Davis, both inside linebackers. Morgan was in on 134 tackles, including 71 solo stops, last year, while Davis was in on 120 with 63 solo stops.

Four players who started 10 or more games return in the secondary, but that's not necessarily a good thing for a CSU team that gave up an average of 275.7 passing yards per game and more passing touchdowns (33) than 123 other FBS teams. McElwain and his staff hope a year of seasoning and increased competition from a recruiting class that included seven defensive backs will spur improvement.

All three of last year's starters on the defensive line were seniors, but the three players behind them all were part of the regular playing rotation, and one, junior Terry Jackson, had 29 tackles — more than all but one of the starters up front.

SPECIALISTS All-MW kicker Jared Roberts, who has made 30-of-34 field goals the past two seasons, returns. The Rams are also in good shape in the punting department; Hayden Hunt, who averaged 41.9 yards a kick with 14 inside the 20-yard line and only four touchbacks, is back for his sophomore season. Colorado State ranked second in the league in both kickoff and punt returns last season.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Rams lost some significant star power with Bibbs' decision to forego his final two seasons to turn pro and the graduations of Richburg, Barrett and All-MW tight end Crockett Gillmore. But they've still got a lot to work with in Grayson and a talented corps of receivers, including three who redshirted last fall. They'll have to develop enough of a running threat to keep defenses honest but should be able to move the ball effectively through the air. The secondary has to improve for the Rams to be a factor in the pass-happy MW.

A favorable schedule that does not include MW West Division powers Fresno State and San Diego State gives the Rams a legitimate chance to make back-to-back bowl appearances for the first time since 2002-03, when Sonny Lubick was the coach.

GARRETT GRAYSON

THE QUOTE

"Garrett Grayson is a good player. He will be one of the best quarterbacks in the league. He got a lot of experience last year."

— An opposing Mountain West assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	82	**Rashard Higgins (So.)**	11	Jordon Vaden (So.)
WR	25	**Joe Hansley (Jr.)**	19	Sammie Long (Fr.)
WR	4	Charles Lovett (Sr.)	89	Robert Ruiz (So.)
LT	51	**Ty Sambrailo (Sr.)**	74	Mason Hathaway (Sr.)
LG	50	Mason Myers (Sr.)	52	Blake Nowland (Fr.)
C	77	Jake Bennett (Fr.)	72	Kevin O'Brien (Jr.)
RG	54	Fred Zerblis (So.)	73	Tomas Rivera (So.)
RT	66	Jordan Finley (Jr.)	76	Nick Callender (So.)
TE	86	**Kivon Cartwright (Sr.)**	32	Nolan Peralta (So.)
QB	18	**Garrett Grayson (Sr.)**	17	Nick Stevens (Fr.)
RB	6	Jasen Oden (Jr.)	24	Bryce Peters (Fr.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	93	Terry Jackson (Jr.)	91	Austin Berk (So.)
NT	94	LaRyan King (Jr.)	68	Justin Hansen (Jr.)
DE	99	Joe Kawulok (Jr.)	9	Martavius Foster (Jr.)
OLB	4	SteveO Michel (Jr.)	36	Bryan Ohene (So.)
ILB	37	**Aaron Davis (Sr.)**	33	Kevin Davis (Jr.)
ILB	40	**Max Morgan (Sr.)**	46	Deonte Clyburn (So.)
OLB	31	**Cory James (Jr.)**	38	Danny Nwosu (So.)
CB	23	**Bernard Blake (Sr.)**	19	Tyree Simmons (So.)
CB	13	**DeAndre Elliott (Jr.)**	29	Justin Sweet (Fr.)
FS	16	**Trent Matthews (Jr.)**	8	Jake Schlager (So.)
SS	26	**Kevin Pierre-Louis (Jr.)**	20	Willie Udofia (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	47	Jared Roberts (Sr.)	KR	25	Joe Hansley (Jr.)
P	49	Hayden Hunt (So.)	PR	19	Tyree Simmons (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Garrett Grayson, 478-297-3,696-11, 23 TDs
Rushing: Garrett Grayson, 69 att., 119 yds., 2 TDs
Receiving: Rashard Higgins, 68 rec., 837 yds., 6 TDs
Tackles: Max Morgan, 134
Sacks: Cory James, 8
Interceptions: Trent Matthews, 4

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Dan Byers/CSU Athletics

NEW MEXICO LOBOS

NATIONAL FORECAST **106**
MW MOUNTAIN PREDICTION **6**

Head Coach: Bob Davie
Record at School: 7-18 (2 years)
Career Record: 42-43 (7 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Bob DeBesse
Defensive Coordinator: Kevin Cosgrove
Albuquerque, NM
University Stadium (39,224)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 3-9, 1-7 (MW)

August	
30	UTEP
September	
6	Arizona State
20	at New Mexico State
26	Fresno State
October	
4	at UTSA
10	San Diego State
18	at Air Force
November	
1	at UNLV
8	Boise State
15	at Utah State
22	at Colorado State
29	Wyoming

2013 RESULTS (3-9, 1-7)

Aug. 31	UTSA		L	13-21
Sept. 7	at UTEP	(ot)	W	42-35
Sept. 14	at Pittsburgh		L	27-49
Sept. 28	UNLV		L	42-56
Oct. 5	New Mexico State		W	66-17
Oct. 12	at Wyoming		L	31-38
Oct. 19	Utah State		L	10-45
Nov. 2	at San Diego State		L	30-35
Nov. 8	Air Force		W	45-37
Nov. 16	Colorado State		L	42-66
Nov. 23	at Fresno State		L	28-69
Nov. 30	at Boise State		L	17-45

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Matt Quarells, WR, Florrissant, MO
2. Taylor Timmons, DT, Tampa, FL
3. Juwan Jones, DB, Chandler, AZ
4. Desmond Branch, DE, Rio Rancho, NM
5. JaJuan Lawson, QB, Petaluma, CA
6. Chris Davis, WR, Westlake Village, CA
7. Daniel Henry, DB, San Diego, CA*
8. Tyrone Owens, RB, Manor, TX
9. Aaron Jenkins, DL, Dallas, TX
10. Patrick Reed, QB, Silsbee, TX

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MW	National
Scoring	32.8 ppg	4	42
Rushing	308.8 ypg	1	4
Passing	113.0 ypg	11	120
Total	421.8 ypg	8	53
Defense	**Per Game**	**MW**	**National**
Scoring	42.8 ppg	12	118
Rushing	257.2 ypg	11	120
Passing	259.4 ypg	8	101
Total	516.6 ypg	12	119
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MW**	**National**
-4	-0.3	7	86

OFFENSE For a team that ran the ball 77 percent of the time in 2013, losing your No. 1 running back is probably not a good thing. But New Mexico remains confident that its triple-option attack out of the Pistol formation will remain potent even without Kasey Carrier, who averaged 1,296 rushing yards the last two seasons. The Lobos' top returning rusher, Crusoe Gongbay, is facing some legal issues that could jeopardize his senior season. If he's not available, Jhurell Pressley, one of the team's fastest players, and Teriyon Gipson will battle in preseason camp for the starting assignment. Pressley averaged 9.4 yards per carry in limited action in 2013.

At quarterback, option specialist Cole Gautsche is back with hopes of improving his 44.9 percent completion percentage. Gautsche is a powerful runner who racked up 86.3 yards per game and ran for eight touchdowns, but he has had some concussion issues. Senior Clayton Mitchem subbed for Gautsche when Gautsche was hurt or the option was being stifled last year and had a much better completion percentage (59.3 percent). Mitchem, however, is not as much of a threat to run.

Three starters return on the offensive line, and center Garrett Adcock, who started eight games in 2012, is back from injury. Optimism is high that the Lobos' strong option attack, which was fourth nationally and first in the Mountain West at 308.8 rushing yards per game, will remain potent.

Six of New Mexico's top seven passcatchers return, with Marquis Bundy the top candidate to have a breakout season.

STAT CORNER

9

Wins by New Mexico during the 2007 season. The Lobos went 9-4 for Rocky Long that year and have gone just 14-59 since. That's an average of 2.3 wins per season.

DEFENSE It was no secret that the focus of the spring was improving a defense that was shredded for 42.8 points per game and gave up 56 or more three times. Coach Bob Davie promoted Kevin Cosgrove as his new coordinator and brought in two new assistants on the defensive side of the ball. Six starters return in the 3-4 scheme, including virtually the entire secondary.

Along the defensive line, senior end Brett Bowers is an all-league candidate after making six sacks. The Lobos are bringing in three run-stuffing junior college defensive tackles to help a defense that surrendered 257.2 yards per game on the ground.

Dakota Cox is back at inside linebacker after leading the team in tackles as a true freshman, and on the outside Javarie Johnson, Donnie White and Tevin Newman showed flashes in 2013.

The secondary hopes to cut down the number of long scoring passes (New Mexico gave up 10 TD receptions of 30-plus yards in 2013). Senior David Guthrie, the team's third-leading tackler, is trying to play a more aggressive style from his strong safety spot. SaQwan Edwards, a returning starter at cornerback, was suspended from the team in April. His loss would be a big blow for the defense.

SPECIALISTS With both kickers gone, Davie signed Jason Sanders to possibly take over both jobs in the fall. Sanders averaged 45 yards per punt and made 7-of-12 field goals as a high school senior. Zack Rogers (kicker) and Sam Gentry (punter) also got looks in spring practice. Wide receiver Carlos Wiggins led the nation with three kickoff returns for touchdowns and was sixth nationally with a 29.6-yard average.

FINAL ANALYSIS Davie has seen mild progress with seven wins in his first two years after taking over a program that went 3–33 in the previous three years. But he and his coaching staff know that there is a long way to go for the Lobos to compete in the upper half of the Mountain West. The offense should again be above average. The relative success of 2014 will be determined by what type of progress the defense can make.

COLE GAUTSCHE

AP Photo/Ross D. Franklin

THE QUOTE

"Their struggles had a lot to do with the quarterback. They turned it over too much, especially when they got behind."

— An opposing Mountain West assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	81	**Marquis Bundy (Jr.)**	84	Tyler Duncan (Sr.)
WR	87	**Jeric Magnant (Sr.)**	28	Dameon Gamblin (So.)
WR	24	Carlos Wiggins (Jr.)	11	Ridge Jones (So.)
LT	75	Reno Henderson (So.)	79	Bryan Oldenkamp (Jr.)
LG	66	**LaMar Bratton (Sr.)**	64	Jack Lamm (So.)
C	62	Garrett Adcock (So.)		Eden Mahina (Jr.)
RG	77	**Jamal Price (Sr.)**	59	Toye Adewon (Fr.)
RT	56	**Johnny Vizcaino (Jr.)**	76	Dillon Romine (Jr.)
TE	80	Reece White (Jr.)	48	Chris Edling (Jr.)
QB	8	Cole Gautsche (Jr.)	12	Clayton Mitchem (Sr.)
RB	6	Jhurell Pressley (Jr.)	7	Teriyon Gipson (So.)

DEFENSE (5)

DE	48	**Brett Bowers (Sr.)**	92	William Udeh (So.)
DT	93	Dominic Twitty (So.)		Cole Juarez (Jr.)
DE	91	Nik D'Avanzo (So.)	96	Randy Williams (Fr.)
OLB	18	**Javarie Johnson (Sr.)**	54	Donnie White (So.)
ILB	49	**Dakota Cox (So.)**	47	Kimmie Carson (Fr.)
ILB	55	Toby Ball (Sr.)		Ryan Langford (Jr.)
OLB	45	Tevin Newman (Sr.)	9	Richard Winston (Jr.)
CB	3	**Cranston Jones (Jr.)**	21	Donnie Duncan (Sr.)
CB	16	Isaiah Brown (So.)	17	Jadon Boatright (So.)
SS	8	**David Guthrie (Sr.)**	12	Ryan Santos (So.)
FS	23	Devonta Tabannah (Sr.)	36	Brandon Branch (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K		Jason Sanders (Fr.)	KR 24	Carlos Wiggins (Jr.)
P		Jason Sanders (Fr.)	PR 28	Dameon Gamblin (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Clayton Mitchem, 81-48-661-1, 1 TD
Rushing: Cole Gautsche, 118 att., 777 yds., 8 TDs
Receiving: Jeric Magnant, 19 rec., 294 yds., 1 TD
Tackles: Dakota Cox, 99
Sacks: Brett Bowers, 6
Interceptions: Tevin Newman, 1

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

UTAH STATE AGGIES

NATIONAL FORECAST **49**
MW MOUNTAIN PREDICTION **2**

Head Coach: Matt Wells
Record at School: 9-5 (1 year)
Career Record: 9-5 (1 year)
Offensive Co-Coordinators: Kevin McGiven, Luke Wells
Defensive Coordinator: Todd Orlando
Logan, UT
Romney Stadium (25,513)

2014 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 9-4, 6-2 (MW)

August		
31	at Tennessee	
September		
6	Idaho State	
13	Wake Forest	
20	at Arkansas State	
October		
3	at BYU	
11	Air Force	
18	at Colorado State	
25	UNLV	
November		
1	at Hawaii	
7	at Wyoming	
15	New Mexico	
21	San Jose State	
29	at Boise State	

2013 RESULTS (9-5, 7-1)

Aug. 29	at Utah	L	26–30
Sept. 7	at Air Force	W	52–20
Sept. 14	Weber State	W	70–6
Sept. 21	at USC	L	14–17
Sept. 27	at San Jose State	W	40–12
Oct. 4	BYU	L	14–31
Oct. 12	Boise State	L	23–34
Oct. 19	at New Mexico	W	45–10
Nov. 2	Hawaii	W	47–10
Nov. 9	at UNLV	W	28–24
Nov. 23	Colorado State	W	13–0
Nov. 30	Wyoming	W	35–7
Dec. 7	at Fresno State %	L	17–24
Dec. 26	vs. Northern Illinois #	W	21–14

%MW Championship #Poinsettia Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Kent Myers, QB, Rowlett, TX
2. Mohelika Uasike, NG, N. Richard Hills, TX
3. Marcus Mosely, TE, Tampa, FL
4. Justen Hervey, RB, Beaumont, TX
5. LaJuan Hunt, RB, Fort Lauderdale, FL
6. Joe Tukuafu, TE, Salt Lake City, UT
7. Sunia Tauteoli, LB, West Valley City, UT*
8. Edmund Faimalo, DE, Redlands, CA*
9. Devonte Robinson, WR, Delray Beach, FL*
10. Gasetoto Schuster, NG, Long Beach, CA

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MW	National
Scoring	31.8 ppg	6	50
Rushing	178.1 ypg	7	53
Passing	233.4 ypg	10	64
Total	411.5 ypg	10	59
Defense	**Per Game**	**MW**	**National**
Scoring	17.1 ppg	1	7
Rushing	106.7 ypg	1	8
Passing	224.1 ypg	2	52
Total	330.9 ypg	1	12
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MW**	**National**
+10	+0.7	1	19

OFFENSE Two of Utah State's top players on offense happen to play the same position — quarterbacks Chuckie Keeton and Darell Garretson. Keeton, a fringe Heisman Trophy candidate a year ago, went down with a knee injury in the sixth game last fall. Garretson, a true freshman in 2013, went 6–1 as a starter. Those two combined to lead the offense to five single-season school records. Keeton missed spring drills but is on track to return to full speed in time for camp.

Protecting the signal-caller will be the biggest challenge, as five seniors graduated from the offensive line, including four starters. Left tackle Kevin Whimpey has started 26 straight games and will provide leadership. "I've been pleasantly pleased with the offensive line," Utah State coach Matt Wells says. "Our guys are talented. They are just youthful and inexperienced."

Like the quarterback, the starting running back is coming back from a knee injury. Joe Hill missed the last nine games and spring. He will be pushed by Rashad Hall and Kennedy Williams, the little brother of Kerwynn Williams, a former Aggie who is now with the San Diego Chargers.

Two key receivers return in Bruce "JoJo" Natson and Brandon Swindall. Several new players shined in the spring, and the coach is excited about the guys who will be catching passes.

"Potentially, this could be one of our more talented groups at wideout here in a long time," Wells says.

STAT CORNER

6.1

Average yards per play for Utah State in 2013 in the five games before quarterback Chuckie Keeton got hurt. The average fell to 4.9 without him in the lineup.

DEFENSE Wells has preached that defense wins championships, and this side of the ball certainly had a big part in the Aggies winning the Mountain Division title in 2013. Utah State's defense ranked seventh nationally in scoring (17.1 ppg), eighth in rushing (106.7 ypg), 12th in total defense (330.9 ypg) and 15th in passing efficiency defense (113.2).

The linebacker corps will lead the way again as two all-league players return in Kyler Fackrell and Zach Vigil, whose younger brother Nick became a starter toward the end of last year.

"We've been really good on defense the last two years, and I don't see any reason why we won't be again this year," Wells says. "I think we have one of the best, if not the best linebacking corps in the Mountain West."

Up front, only one starter is back in B.J. Larsen, but a number of players saw action. The coach likes the depth and believes the line will be solid. The secondary took a hit from graduation as four key players are gone. Safety Brian Suite will be counted on to provide leadership. Wells says that the key to the defense being an "elite" group will be the progress of the secondary.

SPECIALISTS Nick Diaz, who made 17-of-23 field-goal attempts, returns. Punter Jaron Bentrude is back as well. He averaged 39.8 yards per kick. The Aggies ranked in the top half of the league in both kickoff and punt returns.

FINAL ANALYSIS Expectations just keep growing for the Aggies. In their first year in the Mountain West, they made it to the inaugural league championship game after capturing the Mountain Division. The largest crowd to attend a spring game turned out in April, and the second-year coach received a contract extension through 2018. USU has been to three straight bowls — something never before accomplished at the school — winning the last two.

Wells lost two assistants on the defensive side, but the transition with the new coaches went smoothly in the spring. There are some challenges with the schedule: The Aggies travel to Tennessee, Arkansas State and BYU in non-conference action and end the season with a trip to Boise State. Another bowl berth and 10 wins are reasonable goals in 2014.

CHUCKIE KEETON

THE QUOTE

"They did one of the best coaching jobs in the league, to put together a good season after losing a player like (Chuckie Keeton)."

— An opposing Mountain West assistant coach

OFFENSE (3)

WR	11	Brandon Swindall (Jr.)	88	Braelon Roberts (Fr.)
WR	**9**	**JoJo Natson (Jr.)**		Hunter Sharp (Jr.)
WR	18	Ronald Butler (Sr.)	14	Shaan Johnson (Sr.)
LT	**74**	**Kevin Whimpey (Sr.)**	65	Austin Albrecht (So.)
LG	68	Bill Vavau (Sr.)	67	Brandon Tuokovinho (Sr.)
C	59	Austin Stephens (So.)	60	Joe Summers (Sr.)
RG	75	Taani Fisilau (Jr.)	72	Tyshon Mosley (Fr.)
RT	76	Jake Simonich (So.)	62	Bryce Walker (Sr.)
TE	83	Wyatt Houston (So.)	33	Jefferson Court (Sr.)
QB	16	Chuckie Keeton (Sr.)	**6**	**Darell Garretson (So.)**
RB	32	Joe Hill (Sr.)	20	Rashad Hall (Jr.)

DEFENSE (4)

DE	99	**B.J. Larsen (Sr.)**		Edmund Faimalo (Jr.)
NG	96	Elvis Kamana-Matagi (Sr.)	70	Travis Seefeldt (Jr.)
DE	97	Jordan Nielsen (Jr.)	52	John Taylor (Jr.)
OLB	**9**	**Kyler Fackrell (Jr.)**	5	Tavaris McMillian (Sr.)
ILB	41	Nick Vigil (So.)	45	Jarom Baldomero (Jr.)
ILB	**53**	**Zach Vigil (Sr.)**	48	Chase Christiansen (Fr.)
OLB	82	Alex Huerta (Fr.)		Sunia Tauteoli (So.)
CB	6	Rashard Stewart (Sr.)		Deshane Hines (Jr.)
CB	1	Daniel Gray (So.)		Bryant Hayes (Jr.)
SS	46	Frankie Sutera (Sr.)	24	Marwin Evans (Jr.)
FS	**21**	**Brian Suite (Sr.)**	37	Devin Centers (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	93	Nick Diaz (Sr.)	KR	26	Kennedy Williams (So.)
P	38	Jaron Bentrude (Sr.)	PR	9	JoJo Natson (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Darell Garretson, 209-126-1,446-7, 10 TDs
Rushing: Joe Hill, 53 att., 252 yds., 1 TD
Receiving: JoJo Natson, 59 rec., 395 yds., 2 TDs
Tackles: Zach Vigil, 124
Sacks: Nick Vigil, 5.5
Interceptions: Brian Suite, 5

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Utah State SID

WYOMING COWBOYS

NATIONAL FORECAST **94**
MW MOUNTAIN PREDICTION **4**

Head Coach: Craig Bohl
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: 104-32 (11 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Brent Vigen
Defensive Coordinator: Steve Stanard
Laramie, WY
War Memorial Stadium (29,181)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 5-7, 3-5 (MW)

August	
30	Montana
September	
6	Air Force
13	at Oregon
20	Florida Atlantic
27	at Michigan State
October	
11	at Hawaii
18	San Jose State
25	at Colorado State
November	
1	at Fresno State
7	Utah State
22	Boise State
29	at New Mexico

2013 RESULTS (5-7, 3-5)

Aug. 31	at Nebraska	L	34-37
Sept. 7	Idaho	W	42-10
Sept. 14	Northern Colorado	W	35-7
Sept. 21	at Air Force	W	56-23
Sept. 28	at Texas State	L	21-42
Oct. 12	New Mexico	W	38-31
Oct. 19	Colorado State	L	22-52
Oct. 26	at San Jose State	L	44-51
Nov. 9	Fresno State	L	10-48
Nov. 16	at Boise State	L	7-48
Nov. 23	Hawaii	(ot) W	59-56
Nov. 30	at Utah State	L	7-35

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Nick Smith, QB, Merritt Island, FL
2. Aaron Young, QB, Sacramento, CA*
3. Jacob Hollister, TE, Bend, OR*
4. Daniel Vega, DT, Cedar Rapids, IA
5. Nico Evans, RB, Los Angeles, CA
6. Chavez Pownell, S, Tampa, FL
7. Ryan Cummings, OT, Littleton, CO
8. Brinkley Jolley, TE, Liberty, MO
9. John Jackson, DE, Oro Valley, AZ
10. C.J. Jennings, CB, Orlando, FL

*Junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MW	National
Scoring	31.3 ppg	7	51
Rushing	190.4 ypg	5	41
Passing	282.4 ypg	4	24
Total	472.8 ypg	4	22
Defense	**Per Game**	**MW**	**National**
Scoring	36.7 ppg	9	109
Rushing	220.2 ypg	9	108
Passing	261.8 ypg	9	104
Total	482.0 ypg	8	111
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MW**	**National**
-4	-0.3	7	86

Wyoming SID

OFFENSE There are several changes in store as first-year coach Craig Bohl and offensive coordinator Brent Vigen will go with a pro-style attack instead of the spread offense the team ran the previous five seasons with coach Dave Christensen.

The first step is to find a quarterback, and redshirt senior Colby Kirkegaard is the leading candidate. He is the most experienced option on the roster, but he has played in only seven games (with one start) since he arrived in 2011.

"I feel comfortable. It's just about going out there and executing," Kirkegaard says.

The competition will continue through fall camp, with sophomore Tom Thornton and senior Sam Stratton on Kirkegaard's heels.

Bohl wants a power run game, and Wyoming could have the right pieces. Junior Shaun Wick led the team last season with 979 yards and nine touchdowns. Sophomore D.J. May returns after missing last season with a torn pectoral muscle, but he led the team in rushing as a true freshman in 2012 with 374 yards. The offensive line is experienced — all five projected first-teamers have starting experience. That group is anchored by junior right guard Jake Jones, who has started every game of his career.

The Cowboys also have a deep and experienced receiving corps, led by senior Dominic Rufran, who led the team last season with 75 catches for 960 yards and was second with eight touchdowns. Three of the top four wide receivers from last season return.

Wyoming will use tight ends and fullbacks for the first time in five seasons. Expect those positions to have more of an emphasis in the run game.

STAT CORNER

9

Games in which Wyoming allowed at least 31 points in 2013. Craig Bohl's NDSU defense didn't allow more than 26 in any one game.

DEFENSE Wyoming returns eight starters from a unit that gave up 220.2 rushing yards, 261.8 passing yards and 36.7 points per game last season. The Cowboys were mostly a 3-4 team the last five seasons but will make the transition to a 4-3 squad under Bohl.

The starting group along the line has impressed Bohl, led by junior defensive end Eddie Yarbrough. He was a first-team All-Mountain West selection last season with 89 tackles and team-best marks with 12 tackles for a loss and 6.5 sacks.

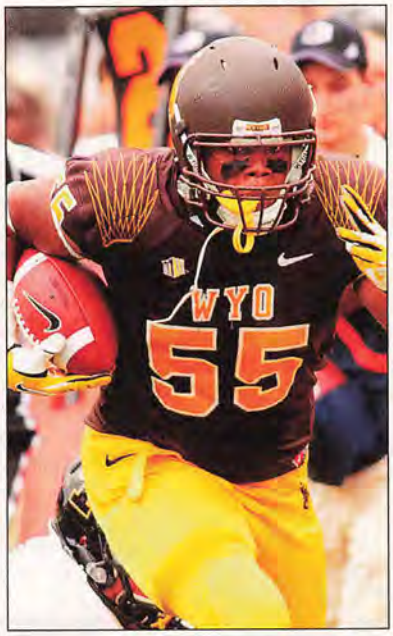
Senior middle linebacker Jordan Stanton was among the nation's leaders in tackles last season (134), but part of that was a product of the defense being on the field for so many snaps. Senior outside linebacker Mark Nzeocha was all over the field during the spring, and he could thrive in the 4-3.

In the secondary, senior cornerback Blair Burns looks to regain his form after being named a Freshman All-American in 2011. Senior Darrenn White provides experience at free safety.

SPECIALISTS The Cowboys' kicking game is in decent shape thanks to the return of senior placekicker Stuart Williams and sophomore punter Ethan Wood. Wyoming attempted only seven field goals in 2013, the fewest in the nation. The Pokes ranked in the bottom third of the league in both kickoff returns (last) and punt returns (ninth).

FINAL ANALYSIS Wyoming hired a proven winner in Bohl, who led North Dakota State to three consecutive FCS national titles. But the transition in all phases of the game will take time. The Cowboys lost to five teams that finished above them in the conference standings by nearly 30 points per contest last season. This season's schedule does them no favors, with road games at Oregon and Michigan State in September. Anything close to a .500 record should be considered a success.

"We made good progress during the course of the spring, but we are not anything to where we are a finished product," Bohl says.



EDDIE YARBROUGH

THE QUOTE

"Tough place to recruit to, especially with what kids are looking for today. The weather is cold, and there aren't a lot of things to do there."

— An opposing Mountain West assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	33	**Dominic Rufran (Sr.)**	4	**Tanner Gentry (So.)**
WR	1	**Jalen Claiborne (Sr.)**	3	Trey Norman (Sr.)
LT	78	Nathan Leddige (So.)	71	Austin Traphagan (Jr.)
LG	73	Chase Roullier (So.)	64	Charlie Renfree (Fr.)
C	63	Rafe Kiely (Jr.)	76	Jacob English (So.)
RG	72	**Jake Jones (Jr.)**	52	Sam Hardy (So.)
RT	77	**Connor Rains (Sr.)**	58	Taylor Knestis (Fr.)
TE	25	J.D. Krill (Sr.)	88	Jacob Hollister (So.)
QB	11	Colby Kirkegaard (Sr.)	13	Tom Thornton (So.)
FB	36	Drew Van Maanen (Fr.)	47	Brandon Lukenbill (So.)
RB	21	**Shaun Wick (Jr.)**	7	D.J. May (So.)

DEFENSE (8)

DE	55	**Eddie Yarbrough (Jr.)**	42	Riley Lange (Sr.)
DT	95	**Patrick Mertens (Sr.)**	51	Troy Boyland (Jr.)
NT	90	Uso Olive (So.)	57	Chase Appleby (So.)
DE	50	**Sonny Puletasi (Sr.)**	34	Siaosi Hala'api'api (Jr.)
OLB	21	**Mark Nzeocha (Sr.)**	9	Malkaam Muhammad (Jr.)
MLB	1	**Jordan Stanton (Sr.)**	53	Alex Borgs (Sr.)
OLB	43	Devyn Harris (Sr.)	45	**Lucas Wacha (So.)**
CB	20	**Blair Burns (Sr.)**	14	Tyran Finley (Jr.)
CB	4	DeAndre Jones (Sr.)	29	**Tim Hayes (So.)**
FS	13	Darrenn White (Sr.)	18	Xavier Lewis (So.)
SS	5	Jesse Sampson (Sr.)	23	Tim Kamana (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	40	Stuart Williams (Sr.)	KR	1	Jalen Claiborne (Sr.)
P	41	Ethan Wood (So.)	PR	1	Jalen Claiborne (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Tom Thornton, 4-3-15-0, 0 TDs
Rushing: Shaun Wick, 166 att., 979 yds., 9 TDs
Receiving: Dominic Rufran, 75 rec., 960 yds., 8 TDs
Tackles: Jordan Stanton, 134
Sacks: Eddie Yarbrough, 6.5
Interceptions: Jordan Stanton, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

FRESNO STATE BULLDOGS

NATIONAL FORECAST **62**
MW WEST PREDICTION **1**

Head Coach: Tim DeRuyter
Record at School: 20-6 (2 years)
Career Record: 21-6 (2+ years)
Offensive Coordinator: Dave Schramm
Defensive Coordinator: Nick Toth
Fresno, CA
Bulldog Stadium (41,031)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 8-5, 7-1 (MW)

August	
30	at USC
September	
6	at Utah
13	Nebraska
20	Southern Utah
26	at New Mexico
October	
3	San Diego State
11	at UNLV
17	at Boise State
November	
1	Wyoming
8	San Jose State
22	at Nevada
29	Hawaii

2013 RESULTS (11-2, 7-1)

Aug. 29	Rutgers	(ot)	W	52–51
Sept. 7	Cal Poly		W	41–25
Sept. 20	Boise State		W	41–40
Sept. 28	at Hawaii		W	42–37
Oct. 5	at Idaho		W	61–14
Oct. 19	UNLV		W	38–14
Oct. 26	at San Diego State	(ot)	W	35–28
Nov. 2	Nevada		W	41–23
Nov. 9	at Wyoming		W	48–10
Nov. 23	New Mexico		W	69–28
Nov. 29	at San Jose State		L	52–62
Dec. 7	Utah State %		W	24–17
Dec. 21	vs. USC #		L	20–45

#Las Vegas Bowl %MWC Championship

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Michael Lazarus, LB, Berkeley, CA
2. Kurt Scoby, RB, Monrovia, CA
3. Xavier Ulutu, LB, San Diego, CA
4. Keyan Williams, ATH, New Orleans, LA
5. Corey Ferguson, DB, Orlando, FL*
6. Sam Akoteu, OL, Gardena, CA
7. Bobby Johnson, OL, Carson, CA
8. Kilton Anderson, QB, Naples, FL
9. Malcolm Washington, DB, Houston, TX
10. Jamire Jordan, WR, Palmdale, CA

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MW	National
Scoring	43.4 ppg	1	6
Rushing	153.0 ypg	10	78
Passing	394.8 ypg	1	1
Total	547.8 ypg	1	3
Defense	**Per Game**	**MW**	**National**
Scoring	30.3 ppg	4	86
Rushing	148.2 ypg	4	41
Passing	282.6 ypg	12	117
Total	430.8 ypg	5	95
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MW**	**National**
+2	+0.2	5	48

OFFENSE For the first time since 2010, Derek Carr won't have the keys to the offense. The two-time Mountain West Offensive Player of the Year is gone, and so are favorite targets Davante Adams and Isaiah Burse. Fresno State will stick with the no-huddle spread, though no one's expecting a repeat of 43.4 points per game.

The battle to succeed Carr took an interesting twist in late April with the arrival of graduate transfer Brandon Connette. Connette was a major part of Duke's offense last fall, both as a passer and goal-line specialist. Brian Burrell had the best spring of three returning quarterbacks, but doesn't have anywhere near Connette's resume. Coach Tim DeRuyter doesn't plan to name a starter until two weeks before the opener.

The Bulldogs had three 1,000-yard receivers a year ago. One returns, Josh Harper, but he sat out all spring as the coaches took a cautious approach with a late-season knee injury. Exacerbating things, three promising young wideouts (Da'Mari Scott, Darrell Fuery, Delvon Hardaway) missed large chunks of spring as well. Aaron Peck was healthy, and he looked like an emerging star.

Tailbacks Josh Quezada and Marteze Waller split carries last fall with each averaging 5.2 yards per attempt. That sounds good, but most of the damage came against defenses geared to stop the pass. This year, the ground game could become the primary option. DeRuyter wants to get a good look at promising redshirt freshman Dontel James, who like Quezada sat out the spring. Three starters return on a line anchored by right guard Cody Wichmann and right tackle Justin Northern. Pass protection has been the unit's forte. Clearing holes in short yardage? Not so much.

STAT CORNER

50

Touchdowns thrown by Fresno State last year, first in the nation and eight more than any other school. That will not be duplicated with Derek Carr no longer in town.

DEFENSE This will be of little solace to Bulldogs fans still smarting over the 62–52 loss at San Jose State, but the defense will be much improved. Eight starters return, including All-MWC free safety Derron Smith and second-teamers Tyeler Davison and Ejiro Ederaine. There's even depth at cornerback, a glaring weakness last year.

Smith enters his senior year with 14 career interceptions, more than any active FBS player. He's a pure ball-hawk, so quarterbacks beware. Strong safety Charles Washington is such a good athlete that the coaches moved him to corner for a few games. But with a healthy Jamal Ellis, expected improvement from Curtis Riley and more depth coming in, Washington is back stuffing the run.

Davison is the linchpin up front, but the MWC's best nose tackle may play much of his senior season at end. Defensive coordinator Nick Toth experimented with that alignment as a way to get his three best linemen on the field. Maurice Poyadue is one of them, and he's a pure nose. Even at 304 pounds, Davison showed the versatility to play both positions.

All four starters return at linebacker. Ederaine surprised everyone by finishing third in the MWC in both sacks (10) and tackles for a loss (1.27 per game). Not bad for a first-year starter. Donavon Lewis, who plays on the opposite side, is just as big a handful.

SPECIALISTS Kicker Colin McGuire, punter Garrett Swanson and return man Dillon Root are solid. The kickoff coverage was poor in 2013, ranking dead last in the conference. Things got so bad that DeRuyter stopped kicking the ball deep.

FINAL ANALYSIS DeRuyter has enjoyed a pretty good run: two seasons and two MWC titles. But the job's about to get a lot tougher, breaking in a new quarterback against a brutal early schedule.

After tangling with USC, Utah and Nebraska, it's possible Fresno State will be 1–3 for the conference opener. Yet there's enough talent to hang another championship banner. It may depend on whether the Bulldogs are steeled by those early games — or battered by them.

JOSH HARPER

James Ramirez/Fresno State SID

THE QUOTE

"They have a tradition there, but they need the new quarterback to be really good for the team to be really good. They lose a lot of talent."

— An opposing Mountain West assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	3	**Josh Harper (Sr.)**	1	Da'Mari Scott (So.)
WR	7	Aaron Peck (Jr.)	82	Darrell Fuery (Fr.)
WR	10	Greg Watson (Sr.)	81	Justin Johnson (Jr.)
LT	76	Alex Fifita (Jr.)	63	Josh Tremblay (Sr.)
LG	75	Sean Rubalcava (Sr.)	78	David Patterson (Fr.)
C	**60**	**Bo Bonnheim (Jr.)**	75	Sean Rubalcava (Sr.)
RG	**73**	**Cody Wichmann (Sr.)**	68	Elijah Cox (Fr.)
RT	**54**	**Justin Northern (Jr.)**	78	David Patterson (Fr.)
TE	88	Jerin McClendon (Sr.)	45	Riley Barnes (Sr.)
QB		Brandon Connette (Sr.)	2	Brian Burrell (Jr.)
RB	33	Marteze Waller (Jr.)	**20**	**Josh Quezada (Sr.)**

DEFENSE (8)

DE	**92**	**Tyeler Davison (Sr.)**	91	Nate Madsen (Fr.)
NG	77	Maurice Poyadue (Jr.)	99	Ioane Sagapolu (Sr.)
DE	96	Todd Hunt (Jr.)	55	Claudell Louis (Jr.)
OLB	**31**	**Ejiro Ederaine (Jr.)**	44	Jaamal Rose (Jr.)
ILB	**43**	**Karl Mickelsen (Sr.)**	42	Jeff Camilli (So.)
ILB	**17**	**Kyrie Wilson (Jr.)**	24	T.J. Thomas (So.)
OLB	**27**	**Donavon Lewis (Sr.)**	41	Brandon Hughes (So.)
CB	2	Jamal Ellis (So.)	11	Bryan Harper (So.)
CB	**7**	**Curtis Riley (Sr.)**	37	Stratton Brown (So.)
FS	**13**	**Derron Smith (Sr.)**	4	Shannon Edwards (Jr.)
SS	**28**	**Charles Washington (So.)**	5	Dalen Jones (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	19	Colin McGuire (So.)	**KR** 11	Dillon Root (Jr.)
P	49	Garrett Swanson (Jr.)	**PR** 1	Da'Mari Scott (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Brian Burrell, 12-7-51-0, 0 TDs
Rushing: Josh Quezada, 155 att., 833 yds., 6 TDs
Receiving: Josh Harper, 79 rec., 1,011 yds., 13 TDs
Tackles: Karl Mickelsen, 96
Sacks: Ejiro Ederaine, 10.0
Interceptions: Derron Smith, 7

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

HAWAII RAINBOW WARRIORS

NATIONAL FORECAST **118**
MW WEST PREDICTION **6**

Head Coach: Norm Chow
Record at School: 4-20 (2 years)
Career Record: 4-20 (2 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Norm Chow
Defensive Coordinator: Kevin Clune
Honolulu, HI
Aloha Stadium (50,000)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 2-11, 1-7 (MW)

August	
30	Washington
September	
6	Oregon State
13	Northern Iowa
20	at Colorado
October	
4	at Rice
11	Wyoming
18	at San Diego State
25	Nevada
November	
1	Utah State
8	at Colorado State
15	at San Jose State
22	UNLV
29	at Fresno State

2013 RESULTS (1-11, 0-8)

Aug. 29	USC		L	13–30
Sept. 7	at Oregon State		L	14–33
Sept. 21	at Nevada		L	9–31
Sept. 28	Fresno State		L	37–42
Oct. 5	San Jose State		L	27–37
Oct. 12	at UNLV		L	37–39
Oct. 26	Colorado State		L	28–35
Nov. 2	at Utah State		L	10–47
Nov. 9	at Navy		L	28–42
Nov. 16	San Diego State	(ot)	L	21–28
Nov. 23	at Wyoming	(ot)	L	56–59
Nov. 30	Army		W	49–42

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. DJ Riggins, RB, West Hills, CA
2. Don'Yeh Patterson, WR, Compton, CA
3. Daniel Lewis, CB, New Iberia, LA
4. Tui Unga, DL, Etiwanda, CA
5. Jerrell Jackson, DB, Haynesville, LA
6. Nick Nelson, DB, Forestville, MD
7. Manly Williams, DB, Honolulu, HI
8. Ka'au Gifford, DL, Waianae, HI
9. Jalen Rogers, CB, Tucson, AZ*
10. Luke Shawley, DL, Charlotte, NC*

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MW	National
Scoring	27.4 ppg	10	72
Rushing	114.6 ypg	12	113
Passing	301.4 ypg	3	19
Total	416.0 ypg	9	57
Defense	**Per Game**	**MW**	**National**
Scoring	38.8 ppg	10	113
Rushing	213.6 ypg	7	104
Passing	281.1 ypg	11	116
Total	494.7 ypg	10	115
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MW**	**National**
-10	-0.8	11	112

OFFENSE Sophomore Ikaika Woolsey is positioned to be Hawaii's fourth opening-day starting quarterback in as many seasons. Woolsey, who started two games in 2013 and played mostly cameo roles before taking the lead in the spring, gives the Rainbow Warriors their best combination of passing and running, which is why it is his job to lose.

But he won't lack for competition. Taylor Graham, who started the 2013 season-opener before suffering a shoulder injury in the third game, should be healthy in the fall. Jeremy Higgins, who also has a start on his résumé, and one-time Colorado State signee Beau Reilly will be in the mix.

But there is no doubt who makes the running game go — senior tailback Joey Iosefa, who came back from a foot injury that caused him to miss all or most of eight games to rush for 586 yards and five touchdowns in the final four games. His return coincided with Hawaii's late-season offensive surge. Steven Lakalaka and Diocemy Saint Juste will spell Iosefa.

The arrival of Quinton Pedroza, a transfer from Utah, adds some much-needed depth to the receiver corps, where Scott Harding, Vasquez Haynes and Keith Kirkwood should be the main targets. If Jordan Pu'u-Robinson can stay healthy — a big if — the tight end position will be a big part of the offense.

In an effort to shore up an offensive line that allowed 43 sacks, the team's best lineman, two-year starting center Ben Clarke, could find himself at tackle this year. Steady Kody Afusia would move from left guard to center.

STAT CORNER

6

Hawaii losses by 10 or fewer points in 2013. The Warriors weren't good, but they may not have been as bad as the record suggested.

DEFENSE When defensive coordinator Kevin Clune arrived from Utah State, he took on one of the biggest challenges in the country. Clune inherits a defense that ranked among the worst in the nation in several key categories.

The undertaking begins with the switch from a 4-3 scheme to a 3-4 to take advantage of one of Hawaii's few strengths on defense, its linebackers. The unit, which has both size and speed, received an additional boost when UCLA transfer Jeremy Castro was granted immediate eligibility. Jerrol Garcia-Williams is a leading returnee, and Julian Gener was off to a big start in 2013 before suffering a season-ending injury.

Second-team All-MW defensive end Beau Yap sets the standard on the defensive line, where sophomore Kennedy Tulimasealii is ready to come into his own and Moses Samia and Marcus Malepeai will also play key roles. The secondary will be built around cornerbacks Ne'Quan Phillips and Dee Maggitt and safeties Marrell Jackson, Trayvon Henderson and Kawika Borden. But depth remains an issue in the pass-happy Mountain West, and redshirt freshman Keelan Ewaliko could make a big contribution.

SPECIALISTS In his addition to his duties as a wide receiver, Harding is a valuable special teams contributor. The former Australian Rules rugby pro punted and returned punts last season, and for a time he was also a holder on placements. As an ambidextrous rugby-style kicker, his roll-outs kept foes off balance, resulting in three fumbles and helping UH rank 25th nationally in net punting. Placekicker Tyler Hadden converted only 7-of-13 attempts last season, including 2-of-3 from beyond 40 yards.

FINAL ANALYSIS After the worst two-season start (4–20) ever for a Hawaii head coach, the pressure is on for Norm Chow to show major improvement in 2014. That, however, will not be easy. The schedule is difficult — especially early with three Pac-12 opponents in the season's first month — and there are significant personnel issues on both sides of the ball. The Rainbow Warriors appear headed toward another last-place finish.

JOEY IOSEFA

AP Photo/Eugene Tanner

THE QUOTE

"It's hard to win at Hawaii when Hawaii is good. They play better on the island than they do off of it. They have to make some strides though."

— An opposing Mountain West assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	29	**Scott Harding (Sr.)**	89	Keith Kirkwood (So.)
WR	5	Quinton Pedroza (Jr.)	14	Marcus Kemp (So.)
WR	81	Vasquez Haynes (Jr.)	49	Donnie King Jr. (Sr.)
LT	71	**Ben Clarke (Jr.)**	72	David Griffin (Sr.)
LG	76	Dave Lefotu (Sr.)	57	Kiha Sai (So.)
C	55	**Kody Afusia (Sr.)**	69	Brenden Urban (Jr.)
RG	74	RJ Hollis (So.)	66	Dejon Allen (Fr.)
RT	68	**Sean Shigematsu (Sr.)**	70	**Frank Loyd Jr. (Sr.)**
TE	85	Jordan Pu'u-Robinson (Sr.)	88	Josh Long (Jr.)
QB	11	Ikaika Woolsey (So.)	8	Taylor Graham (Sr.)
RB	7	Joey Iosefa (Sr.)	4	Steven Lakalaka (So.)

DEFENSE (5)

DE	92	**Beau Yap (Sr.)**	93	Luke Shawley (Jr.)
NT	91	**Moses Samia (Sr.)**	50	Calen Friel (Jr.)
DE	90	Kennedy Tulimasealii (So.)	53	Marcus Malepeai (Sr.)
OLB	2	Jerrol Garcia-Williams (Jr.)	36	Benetton Fonua (Jr.)
ILB	28	Julian Gener (Sr.)	17	Lance Williams (Jr.)
ILB	52	Tevita Lataimua (Sr.)	58	Rashaan Falemalu (Fr.)
OLB	16	Jeremy Castro (So.)	96	David Manoa (Fr.)
CB	1	**Ne'Quan Phillips (Jr.)**	6	Barry Higdon (Fr.)
CB	23	**Dee Maggitt (Sr.)**	30	Gaetano DeMattei (Jr.)
SS	39	Trayvon Henderson (So.)	31	Kawika Borden (Sr.)
FS	10	**Marrell Jackson (Jr.)**	13	Keelan Ewaliko (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	27	Tyler Hadden (Sr.)	KR	22	Diocemy Saint Juste (So.)
P	29	Scott Harding (Sr.)	PR	29	Scott Harding (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Taylor Graham, 100-46-462-5, 2 TDs
Rushing: Joey Iosefa, 126 att., 590 yds., 5 TDs
Receiving: Scott Harding, 56 rec., 631 yds., 1 TD
Tackles: Jerrol Garcia-Williams, 67
Sacks: Beau Yap, 5.5
Interceptions: Trayvon Henderson, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

NEVADA WOLF PACK

NATIONAL FORECAST **82**
MW WEST PREDICTION **2**

Head Coach: Brian Polian
Record at School: 4-8 (1 year)
Career Record: 4-8 (1 year)
Offensive Coordinator: Nick Rolovich
Defensive Co-Coordinators: Scott Boone, Bill Teerlinck
Reno, NV
Mackay Stadium (30,000)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 6-6, 5-3 (MW)

August	
30	Southern Utah
September	
5	Washington State
13	at Arizona
27	at San Jose State
October	
4	Boise State
11	Colorado State
18	at BYU
25	at Hawaii
November	
1	San Diego State
15	at Air Force
22	Fresno State
29	at UNLV

2013 RESULTS (4-8, 3-5)

Aug. 31	at UCLA	L	20-58
Sept. 7	UC Davis	W	36-7
Sept. 14	at Florida State	L	7-62
Sept. 21	Hawaii	W	31-9
Sept. 28	Air Force	W	45-42
Oct. 4	at San Diego State (ot)	L	44-51
Oct. 19	at Boise State	L	17-34
Oct. 26	UNLV	L	22-27
Nov. 2	at Fresno State	L	23-41
Nov. 9	at Colorado State	L	17-38
Nov. 16	San Jose State	W	38-16
Nov. 30	BYU	L	23-28

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Patrick Choudja, DE, Oakley, CA
2. Korey Rush, DL, Salt Lake City, NV
3. Hunter Fralick, QB, Sparks, NV
4. Wyatt Demps, WR, Elk Grove, CA
5. Andrew Celis, WR, Kentfield, CA
6. James Butler, RB, Bloomingdale, IL
7. Asauni Rufus, DB, Bakersfield, CA
8. Matt Moen, TE, Cibolo, TX
9. Duran Workman, DB, Charleston, WV*
10. Elijah Moody, DB, Long Beach, CA

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MW	National
Scoring	26.9 ppg	11	75
Rushing	179.0 ypg	6	51
Passing	250.3 ypg	8	45
Total	429.3 ypg	6	45
Defense	**Per Game**	**MW**	**National**
Scoring	34.4 ppg	7	102
Rushing	258.5 ypg	12	122
Passing	246.8 ypg	4	85
Total	505.3 ypg	11	117
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MW**	**National**
+7	+0.6	2	23

OFFENSE Nevada's famed Pistol offense struggled in the first season under head coach Brian Polian and second-year offensive coordinator Nick Rolovich. After years of being among the nation's leaders in rushing offense and scoring, Nevada averaged only 26.9 points per game a season ago. And though Nevada improved as the season progressed, the Wolf Pack averaged a lackluster 3.8 yards per carry and dropped to No. 51 in the nation with 179.0 rushing yards per game. One of the major culprits: An offensive line that, despite the efforts of top lineman Joel Bitonio, struggled mightily. Four starters return on the line, but the bad news is that Bitonio isn't one of them.

The good news is that the Wolf Pack still return eight starters on offense. The most important returnee in Nevada's quarterback-dependent offense is dual-threat senior Cody Fajardo. Fajardo played with nagging leg injuries for much of last year, and his rushing yards were cut nearly in half to 621 yards, even as his passing numbers remained consistent. The all-conference-caliber quarterback must stay healthy this season to open up the running game.

A strong frontline receiving corps led by senior Richy Turner (61 catches, 755 yards) and 6'5", 230-pound sophomore Hasaan Henderson (29 catches, 326 yards), should help take the pressure off Fajardo. Incoming freshmen Andrew Celis and Wyatt Demps could also contribute.

Senior running back Kendall Brock (812 yards) and junior Don Jackson (332) are capable of carrying Nevada's running game. But incoming freshman James Butler is an intriguing prospect who could battle for carries.

STAT CORNER

179.0

The Wolf Pack's average rushing yards per game, 51st in the country. It marked their first time out of the top 10 since 2007.

DEFENSE On paper, the Pack have one of the better defensive lines in the Mountain West, led by all-league end Brock Hekking. The duo of Ian Seau (nephew of Junior Seau) and Lenny Jones at the other end spot and the inside tandem of Jordan Hanson and Rykeem Yates should make for a solid unit. Yet this group was abysmal against the run in 2013, to the tune of 258.5 yards per game, and improvement is paramount.

The linebacking corps has four mainstays for three spots, as incoming defensive co-coordinator Scott Boone, one of the top DCs at the FCS level last year at William & Mary, will retain the Pack's 4-3 front. Jonathan McNeal and Jordan Dobrich are dependable, while Matthew Lyons played very well at times in 2013. But the key may be athletic junior Bryan Lane Jr., who has split time at linebacker and safety in recent years.

Per usual at Nevada, the secondary appears shaky. Senior Charles Garrett is one of the top corners in the league, but he needs help. Safety Kaodi Dike and undersized corner Elijah Mitchell played last year as true freshmen, and senior corner Evan Favors needs to be a factor. Junior college transfer safety Duran Workman could be a starter right off the bat.

SPECIALISTS Nevada loses a weapon in punter Chase Tenpenny, who averaged 44.5 yards per kick last season. Placekicker Brent Zuzo appears dependable after a solid freshman season in which he hit 14-of-17 field goals and 33-of-36 extra points. The Pack need a spark in the return game, and speedster D'Andre Fuller might just provide it.

FINAL ANALYSIS With 16 returning starters, including Fajardo, Nevada should improve over last season. The Wolf Pack's 2014 slate lightens up from a brutal 2013. Mountain West heavyweights Boise State, Colorado State, Fresno State and San Diego State all come to Reno. If the Wolf Pack improve substantially on defense and solve their second-half woes, they should make a bowl game and contend for the West Division title.

CODY FAJARDO

John Byrne/Nevada Athletics

THE QUOTE

"Cody Fajardo is really good. If he can stay healthy the entire year, he changes the complexion of that team."

— An opposing Mountain West assistant coach

OFFENSE (8)

F	12	Hasaan Henderson (So.)	42	Julian Brooks (Fr.)
X	**2**	**Richy Turner (Sr.)**	29	D'Andre Fuller (Fr.)
Z	84	Jerico Richardson (So.)	88	Giles Chapman (So.)
LT	73	Austin Corbett (Fr.)	70	Humberto Lopez (Jr.)
LG	**72**	**Jeremy Macauley (So.)**	60	Adam Khouri (Fr.)
C	**65**	**Matt Galas (Sr.)**	72	Jeremy Macauley (So.)
RG	**57**	**Connor Talbott (Jr.)**	61	Joey Anglemire (Fr.)
RT	**66**	**Kyle Roberts (Sr.)**	77	Ziad Damanhoury (Fr.)
TE	44	Patrick Clifford (So.)	**47**	**Jarred Gipson (So.)**
QB	**17**	**Cody Fajardo (Sr.)**	13	Devin Combs (Sr.)
RB	6	Don Jackson (Jr.)	**4**	**Kendall Brock (Sr.)**

DEFENSE (8)

DE	8	Ian Seau (Jr.)	**94**	**Lenny Jones (Jr.)**
NT	**92**	**Jordan Hanson (Sr.)**	71	Kevin Sundberg (Fr.)
DT	55	Rykeem Yates (Jr.)	97	Salesa Faraimo (So.)
DE	**53**	**Brock Hekking (Sr.)**	93	Dupree Roberts-Jordan (Sr.)
LB	**25**	**Bryan Lane Jr. (Jr.)**	34	Travis Wilson (So.)
LB	**49**	**Jordan Dobrich (Jr.)**	56	Alex Bertrando (So.)
LB	**50**	**Jonathan McNeal (Sr.)**	9	Matthew Lyons (Jr.)
CB	**19**	**Evan Favors (Sr.)**	31	Randy Uzoma (So.)
CB	**24**	**Charles Garrett (Sr.)**	28	Elijah Mitchell (So.)
FS	16	Kaodi Dike (So.)	23	Nigel Haikins (Sr.)
SS	7	Duran Workman (Jr.)	30	Tere Calloway (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	40	Brent Zuzo (So.)	**KR** 29	D'Andre Fuller (Fr.)
P	69	Alex Boy (So.)	**PR** 29	D'Andre Fuller (Fr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Cody Fajardo, 358-243-2,668-3, 13 TDs
Rushing: Kendall Brock, 185 att., 812 yds., 10 TDs
Receiving: Richy Turner, 61 rec., 755 yds., 4 TDs
Tackles: Jonathan McNeal, 103
Sacks: Brock Hekking, 9.0
Interceptions: 6 players tied with 1

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS

NATIONAL FORECAST 83
MW WEST PREDICTION 3

Head Coach: Rocky Long
Record at School: 25-14 (3 years)
Career Record: 90-83 (14 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Bob Toledo
Defensive Coordinator: Rocky Long
San Diego, CA
Qualcomm Stadium (54,000*)
*SDSU does not use full Qualcomm capacity

2014 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 7-5, 5-3 (MW)

August	
30	Northern Arizona
September	
6	at North Carolina
20	at Oregon State
27	UNLV
October	
3	at Fresno State
10	at New Mexico
18	Hawaii
November	
1	at Nevada
8	Idaho
15	at Boise State
21	Air Force
29	San Jose State

2013 RESULTS (8-5, 6-2)

Aug. 31	Eastern Illinois		L	19–40
Sept. 7	at Ohio State		L	7–42
Sept. 21	Oregon State		L	30–34
Sept. 28	at New Mexico State		W	26–16
Oct. 4	Nevada	(ot)	W	51–44
Oct. 10	at Air Force		W	27–20
Oct. 26	Fresno State	(ot)	L	28–35
Nov. 2	New Mexico		W	35–30
Nov. 9	at San Jose State		W	34–30
Nov. 16	at Hawaii	(ot)	W	28–21
Nov. 23	Boise State	(ot)	W	34–31
Nov. 30	at UNLV		L	19–45
Dec. 21	vs. Buffalo #		W	49–24

#Idaho Potato Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Donavin Bucke, DL, Brawley, CA
2. Mikah Holder, WR, Oceanside, CA
3. Christian Heyward, DT, San Diego, CA*
4. Na'im McGee, S, Oakland, CA*
5. Pearce Slater, OL, Los Angeles, CA*
6. P.J. Walker, RB, Perris, CA
7. Christian Chapman, QB, Carlsbad, CA
8. Dionte Sykes, WR, Phoenix, AZ
9. Caleb Brady, OL, Ft. Worth, TX*
10. Rashaad Penny, RB, Norwalk, CA

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MW	National
Scoring	29.8 ppg	9	59
Rushing	166.6 ypg	9	68
Passing	258.3 ypg	7	38
Total	424.9 ypg	7	51
Defense	**Per Game**	**MW**	**National**
Scoring	31.7 ppg	5	92
Rushing	131.4 ypg	2	22
Passing	254.8 ypg	7	98
Total	386.2 ypg	2	53
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MW**	**National**
-11	-0.8	12	117

OFFENSE Quarterback Quinn Kaehler underwent offseason elbow surgery on his throwing arm but is expected to be fully recovered well before fall camp. That's a huge plus since he is San Diego State's only proven commodity at quarterback and all but saved the squad's 2013 season after replacing ineffective Adam Dingwell early in the campaign. Kaehler passed for 3,007 yards and 19 touchdowns, and his efficient nature led to only nine interceptions in 389 attempts.

Kaehler has a big-time target to throw to in Ezell Ruffin, who emerged as a go-to receiver last season with 68 receptions for 1,136 yards. Eric Judge, who caught 13 passes in 2013, has the potential to develop into a solid receiving complement to Ruffin.

Two-time 1,000-yard running back Adam Muema surprisingly bypassed his senior campaign in favor of chasing an NFL roster spot, leaving scatback Donnel Pumphrey (10 total touchdowns as a freshman) as the most accomplished runner. But the 5'9", 170-pounder isn't suited for heavy pounding, so the Aztecs will be hoping someone such as Chase Price or Dwayne Garrett can emerge as a between-the-tackles rusher.

Left tackle Terry Poole is the top offensive lineman.

DEFENSE San Diego State will be searching for reinforcements up front and in the back end but is well stocked at linebacker. Middle linebacker Jake Fely is one of the top defensive players in the Mountain West and is fully recovered from a foot injury that ended his 2013 season in late September. Josh Gavert played well in Fely's place, but having the fiery leader back to team with outside linebacker Derek Largent gives the Aztecs a sturdy group in the center of the defense.

STAT CORNER

33.4

San Diego State's average starting field position in 2013. When the Aztecs' defense made stops, they made them quickly.

The toughest chore is replacing standout safeties Nat Berhe and Eric Pinkins — the squad's top two tacklers last season. Most of that will be hashed out in fall camp as Brandon Porter was the only player to secure a starting spot in the three-safety alignment during spring drills.

The defensive line will be deep, as tackle Sam Meredith and end Dontrell Onuoha are expected to be fully healthy after missing the spring, and former USC defensive tackle Christian Heyward figures to push for a role. J.J. Whittaker, who had three of the Aztecs' eight interceptions in 2013, and Damontae Kazee are the starting cornerbacks.

SPECIALISTS The placekicking was a disaster last season as departed Wes Feer and Seamus McMorrow combined to go 8-of-16 on field goals and missed six extra points. Coach Rocky Long moved to fix the issue by recruiting junior college kicker Donald Hageman and freshman John Baron II. The two kickers will compete for the job during fall camp with the more experienced Hageman holding an edge after going 19-of-20 at the junior college level last fall. Joel Alesi placed 17 punts inside the 20-yard line last season, and only 13 of his 53 punts were returned. He holds an edge over McMorrow for the job.

FINAL ANALYSIS San Diego State is in a bit of a transition after losing 12 starters, but there is enough remaining talent to finish in the top half of the conference's West Division. The Aztecs have gone to four consecutive bowl games for the first time in program history and have proven to be a gritty squad under Long's leadership. San Diego State didn't collapse after an 0–3 start last season and ended up playing in four overtime games while rebounding to record at least eight victories for the fourth straight year.

That type of consistency — along with defeating conference power Boise State in back-to-back seasons — provides hope that the Aztecs will again win eight or more games and contend for the division crown.

JAKE FELY

THE QUOTE

"It's a good job. But it has some distractions too. There is good and bad, but it is a very attractive place to recruit to."

— An opposing Mountain West assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	3	**Ezell Ruffin (Sr.)**	82	Lloyd Mills (So.)
WR	81	Eric Judge (So.)	80	Larry Clark (Jr.)
LT	79	**Terry Poole (Sr.)**	70	Arthur Flores (So.)
LG	64	Zach Dilley (Sr.)	56	Nico Siragusa (So.)
C	73	**Jordan Smith (Jr.)**	53	Lenicio Noble (Jr.)
RG	72	**Darrell Greene (Jr.)**	66	Antonio Rosales (Fr.)
RT	67	Garrett Corbett (Sr.)	71	Pearce Slater (Jr.)
TE	94	Robert Craighead (Jr.)	89	Daniel Brunskill (So.)
QB	18	**Quinn Kaehler (Sr.)**	12	Brad Odeman (Jr.)
FB	44	**Adam Roberts (Sr.)**	46	Dakota Gordon (Jr.)
RB	19	Donnel Pumphrey (So.)	22	Chase Price (Jr.)

DEFENSE (4)

DE	99	Jon Sanchez (Jr.)	69	Paul Rodriguez (Jr.)
NT	98	Sam Meredith (Sr.)		Christian Heyward (Jr.)
DE	90	Everett Beed (Sr.)	97	**Dontrell Onuoha (Sr.)**
OLB	50	Derek Largent (Sr.)	55	Micah Seau (So.)
MLB	42	Jake Fely (Sr.)	48	**Josh Gavert (Sr.)**
OLB	47	**Cody Galea (Sr.)**	54	Calvin Munson (So.)
CB	34	**J.J. Whittaker (Sr.)**	22	Kalan Montgomery (Fr.)
CB	23	Damontae Kazee (So.)	24	Billy Vaughn Jr. (Fr.)
S	18	Brandon Porter (So.)	21	Na'im McGee (So.)
S	32	Kendrick Mathis (So.)	12	Malik Smith (So.)
S	9	Stan Sedberry (Jr.)	41	T.J. Hickman (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K		Donald Hageman (Jr.)	KR	19	Donnel Pumphrey (So.)
P	77	Joel Alesi (Sr.)	PR	19	Donnel Pumphrey (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Quinn Kaehler, 389-232-3,007-9, 19 TDs
Rushing: Donnel Pumphrey, 125 att., 752 yds., 8 TDs
Receiving: Ezell Ruffin, 68 rec., 1,136 yds., 3 TDs
Tackles: Josh Gavert, 68
Sacks: Josh Gavert, 3; Alex Barrett, 3
Interceptions: J.J. Whittaker, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

CSM / Landov

SAN JOSE STATE SPARTANS

NATIONAL FORECAST **103**
MW WEST PREDICTION **5**

Head Coach: Ron Caragher
Record at School: 6-6 (1 year)
Career Record: 50-28 (7 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Jimmie Dougherty
Defensive Coordinator: Greg Robinson
San Jose, CA
Spartan Stadium (30,456)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 4-8, 3-5 (MW)

August	
28	North Dakota
September	
6	at Auburn
20	at Minnesota
27	Nevada
October	
4	UNLV
18	at Wyoming
25	at Navy
November	
1	Colorado State
8	at Fresno State
15	Hawaii
21	at Utah State
29	at San Diego State

2013 RESULTS (6-6, 5-3)

Aug. 29	Sacramento State	W	24–0
Sept. 7	at Stanford	L	13–34
Sept. 21	at Minnesota	L	24–43
Sept. 27	Utah State	L	12–40
Oct. 5	at Hawaii	W	37–27
Oct. 12	at Colorado State	W	34–27
Oct. 26	Wyoming	W	51–44
Nov. 2	at UNLV	W	34–24
Nov. 9	San Diego State	L	30–34
Nov. 16	at Nevada	L	16–38
Nov. 22	Navy	(ot) L	52–58
Nov. 29	Fresno State	W	62–52

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Victor Vernon, DE, Chicago, IL*
2. Ian Fieber, QB, Mission Viejo, CA
3. André Chachere, CB, Fresno, CA
4. Maurice McKnight, CB, San Bernardino, CA
5. David Williams, S, Los Angeles, CA
6. Justin Holmes, WR, Roseville, CA
7. Limihai Hifo, RB, Romoland, CA
8. Kyle Wright, OT, Alta Loma, CA*
9. Tre Hartley, WR, Milpitas, CA
10. Khalil Rashaad-Brown, S, Carson, CA

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MW	National
Scoring	32.4 ppg	5	44
Rushing	137.3 ypg	11	97
Passing	355.9 ypg	2	6
Total	493.3 ypg	2	15
Defense	**Per Game**	**MW**	**National**
Scoring	35.1 ppg	8	103
Rushing	211.7 ypg	6	102
Passing	247.6 ypg	5	86
Total	459.3 ypg	7	103
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MW**	**National**
-5	-0.4	10	94

OFFENSE The big question heading into fall camp is who will replace record-setting David Fales — the first player in school history to pass for over 4,000 yards in back-to-back seasons — at quarterback. Senior Blake Jurich and junior Joe Gray both backed up Fales and battled for the No. 1 job in spring practice, but coach Ron Caragher says that the competition will carry over until fall camp.

The Spartans also must replace the two top receivers statistically in school history in Chandler Jones and Noel Grigsby. Jones, a first-team All-Mountain West pick, set a school record with 15 touchdown receptions in 2013, including a single-game record-tying three in the upset of Fresno State. But the cupboard is hardly bare. Tyler Winston returns after earning Mountain West Freshman of the Year honors with 58 receptions for 858 yards and five touchdowns, and senior Jabari Carr has 120 career receptions. Tight end Billy Freeman is another weapon, earning honorable mention All-Mountain West recognition as a freshman when he caught 27 passes.

Jarrod Lawson anchors a deep group of running backs that includes fellow sophomores Thomas Tucker and Tim Crawley. The trio combined for 1,345 yards and eight touchdowns and 65 receptions and four more scores.

Center David Peterson and left tackle Wes Schweitzer return to anchor an offensive line that must replace three starters, including second-team All-Mountain West guard Nicholas Kaspar.

STAT CORNER

-4.5

The Spartans' field position margin in Mountain West play – ranking 10th in the league ahead of only Air Force and Wyoming. The offense was exciting, but defense and the return game were costly.

DEFENSE Caragher's biggest recruiting coup might been landing highly respected Greg Robinson as defensive coordinator. Robinson will oversee the transition from a 3-4 to a 4-3. He brings five decades of NFL and FBS coaching experience, serving as defensive coordinator for the two-time Super Bowl champion Denver Broncos and Rose Bowl champion Texas Longhorns.

Robinson has four veteran defensive linemen returning, led by tackle Travis Raciti, a three-year starter who was a first-team All-WAC choice in 2012.

The Spartans must replace first-team All-Mountain West pick Keith Smith at linebacker, but they add Vince Buhagiar, who missed the 2013 season following right shoulder surgery after earning first-team All-WAC honors as a junior. Sophomore Christian Tago, who had 90 tackles (10.5 tackles for a loss) and four sacks, also returns.

The secondary loses standout cornerback Bene Benwikere, who had 14 career interceptions, but returns four players with starting experience, led by junior cornerback Jimmy Pruitt.

SPECIALISTS This area once again figures to be one of the strongest in the Mountain West. The Spartans last year shared the national lead in blocked kicks with seven. Junior kicker Austin Lopez has made 39-of-44 of his career field-goal attempts, including an NCAA-record-tying 23 in a row to start his career.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Spartans, who will be trying for their third consecutive .500 or better record for the first time since 1989-92, will enter the season with a big chip on their shoulders after getting bypassed for a bowl game despite a 6–6 record and impressive season-ending upset of then-undefeated Fresno State. Seventeen players with starting experience return, and the schedule, outside of early non-conference road games at Auburn and Minnesota, is favorable. Three of the first four Mountain West games are at home, including two against teams — UNLV and Colorado State — that San Jose State defeated on the road a year ago. If Gray or Jurich emerges as a quality option at quarterback and Robinson can fix a defense that ranked 103rd nationally in points allowed (35.1 ppg), the Spartans have enough returning talent to be a factor in the West Division.

TYLER WINSTON

Terrell Lloyd/San Jose State Athletics

THE QUOTE

"Replacing (David Fales) will be the big deal. They may have to lean more on the defense with a new quarterback."

– An opposing Mountain West assistant coach

OFFENSE (4)

WR	**15**	**Tyler Winston (So.)**	7	Tyler Ervin (Jr.)
WR	1	Jabari Carr (Sr.)	2	Tim Crawley (So.)
LT	**72**	**Wes Schweitzer (Jr.)**	78	Oscar Barron (So.)
LG	71	Keith Bendixen (Sr.)	56	Doug Blacksill (Jr.)
C	**51**	**David Peterson (Sr.)**	73	Kyle Hart (So.)
RG	62	Jeremiah Kolone (Fr.)	65	A.J. Samataua (Fr.)
RT	77	Evan Sarver (So.)	76	Kyle Wright (Jr.)
TE	**18**	**Billy Freeman (So.)**	83	Jordan Thiel (So.)
QB	6	Joe Gray (Jr.)	14	Blake Jurich (Sr.)
FB	49	Shane Smith (So.)	42	Alvin Jenks (Sr.)
RB	21	Jarrod Lawson (So.)	3	Thomas Tucker (So.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	66	Keenan Sykes (So.)	91	Adrian Blake (Sr.)
DT	**3**	**Travis Raciti (Sr.)**	98	Tony Popovich (Jr.)
DT	**57**	**Nate Falo (Jr.)**	93	Foloi Vae (Sr.)
DE	**95**	**Sean Bacon (Sr.)**	**94**	**Eugene Taylor (So.)**
LB	36	Vince Buhagiar (Sr.)	55	Moses Saucedo (So.)
LB	**4**	**Christian Tago (So.)**	22	Hector Roach (Jr.)
LB	45	Lemaki Musika (So.)	11	Jared Leaf (Jr.)
CB	**8**	**Jimmy Pruitt (Jr.)**	9	Sean Linton (Sr.)
CB	**5**	**Dasheon Frierson (Sr.)**	16	Miles Milner (So.)
SS	25	Akeem King (Sr.)	28	Simon Connette (Jr.)
FS	12	Forrest Hightower (Sr.)	20	Esston Al-Uqdah (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	12	Austin Lopez (Jr.)	**KR**	3	Thomas Tucker (So.)
P	39	Zach Steinberg (Fr.)	**PR**	7	Tyler Ervin (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Blake Jurich, 6-3-22-1, 0 TDs
Rushing: Jarrod Lawson, 164 att., 788 yds., 4 TDs
Receiving: Tyler Winston, 58 rec., 858 yds., 5 TDs
Tackles: Christian Tago, 90
Sacks: Christian Tago, 4; Eugene Taylor, 4
Interceptions: 6 players tied with 1

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

UNLV REBELS

NATIONAL FORECAST **101**
MW WEST PREDICTION **4**

Head Coach: Bobby Hauck
Record at School: 13-38 (4 years)
Career Record: 93-55 (11 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Timm Rosenbach
Defensive Coordinator: Tim Hauck
Las Vegas, NV
Sam Boyd Stadium (36,800)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 5-7, 4-4 (MW)

August	
29	at Arizona
September	
6	Northern Colorado
12	Northern Illinois
27	at San Diego State
October	
4	at San Jose State
11	Fresno State
25	at Utah State
November	
1	New Mexico
8	Air Force
15	at BYU
22	at Hawaii
29	Nevada

2013 RESULTS (7-6, 5-3)

Aug. 29	at Minnesota	L	23–51
Sept. 7	Arizona	L	13–58
Sept. 14	Central Michigan	W	31–21
Sept. 21	Western Illinois	W	38–7
Sept. 28	at New Mexico	W	56–42
Oct. 12	Hawaii	W	39–37
Oct. 19	at Fresno State	L	14–38
Oct. 26	at Nevada	W	27–22
Nov. 2	San Jose State	L	24–34
Nov. 9	Utah State	L	24–28
Nov. 21	at Air Force	W	41–21
Nov. 30	San Diego State	W	45–19
Jan. 1	vs. North Texas #	L	14–36

#Heart Of Dallas Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Dominique Fenstermacher, CB, Phoenix, AZ
2. Mike Hughes, DL, Las Vegas, NV
3. Joseph Salazar, DL, Houston, TX
4. Chazz Eldridge, DB, Chino Hills, CA
5. Phillip Haynes, OL, Dallas, TX
6. Blake Decker, QB, Mesa, AZ*
7. Najee Johnson, DL, Fairfield, CA*
8. Tim Hough, DB, Las Vegas, NV
9. J.T. Nettleton, WR, Scottsdale, AZ
10. Blake Richmond, DB, Fairfield, CA*

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	MW	National
Scoring	29.9 ppg	8	58
Rushing	172.5 ypg	8	61
Passing	238.8 ypg	9	57
Total	411.4 ypg	11	60
Defense	**Per Game**	**MW**	**National**
Scoring	31.8 ppg	6	94
Rushing	215.5 ypg	8	107
Passing	217.7 ypg	1	41
Total	433.2 ypg	6	97
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**MW**	**National**
+5	+0.4	3	32

UNLV SID

OFFENSE Replacing a player who began last season as a backup wide receiver will arguably be the biggest key for the Rebels offensively. Caleb Herring took over at quarterback midway through the fourth game of the season and rallied UNLV to its first bowl game and winning season since 2000, breaking a number of school records in the process, including the single-season passing percentage mark (62.9) held for three decades by the legendary Randall Cunningham.

Junior Nick Sherry, who beat out Herring for the starting job as a freshman and also began last season as the starter, is battling junior college transfer Blake Decker for the starting job entering fall camp. Both had their moments during spring practice, but neither was impressive enough for coach Bobby Hauck to hand him the job.

The Rebels also must replace tailback Tim Cornett, a four-year starter who departed as the school's all-time leading rusher with 3,733 yards, second-best in Mountain West history. Projected starter Adonis Smith left the team in early May, leaving senior Shaquille Murray-Lawrence as the likely starter. Murray-Lawrence rushed for 418 yards in a reserve role last fall in his first season after transferring from junior college.

Senior Devante Davis, an NFL prospect who caught 87 passes for 1,290 yards and 14 touchdowns, returns to anchor a veteran wide receiver corps.

The strength of the offense, if not the entire team, is a big, strong and physical offensive line that returns most of its key contributors, including left tackle Brett Boyko and left guard Cameron Jefferson.

STAT CORNER

6

UNLV wins in Bobby Hauck's first three years in charge. The Rebels broke through for seven wins and a rare bowl in 2013.

DEFENSE It's taken a while, but the Rebels finally have developed some size and decent depth on this side of the ball. Now the question is whether that will translate into improvement statistically after UNLV allowed averages of 31.8 points and 215.5 yards rushing per game.

The Rebels use a 4-3 base defense led by three defensive ends — Sonny Sanitoa, Jordan Sparkman and Siuea Vaesau — who could line up for any team in the conference. But the Rebels must replace both starting tackles.

The linebacking corps, led by Tau Lotulelei, is young but athletic and will likely feature three sophomore starters.

The secondary, which made significant progress under the tutelage of Hauck's brother, former NFL defensive backs coach Tim Hauck, returns three starters, including junior strong safety Peni Vea, who had a team-high 108 tackles and two interceptions, and senior corner Tajh Hasson, who forced a team-high four fumbles.

SPECIALISTS The Rebels must replace placekicker Nolan Kohorst, a four-year starter who kicked 39 career field goals, and they thought they had his replacement when they landed local star Conor Perkins. But shortly after signing his letter of intent, Perkins informed UNLV that he had decided to take a two-year LDS Church mission before enrolling. Jonathan Leiva, a late junior college signee out of Palomar (Calif.) College, will be handed the job in the fall. Junior Logan Yunker returns to handle the punting.

FINAL ANALYSIS UNLV learned in the spring that it had failed to meet minimum NCAA Athletic Progress Rate (APR) score requirements of 930 and that the program would be ineligible for postseason competition in 2014, including the Mountain West Championship Game. Talk about bad timing. The Rebels, who ended a 12-year bowl drought with a 36–14 loss to North Texas in the Heart of Dallas Bowl on New Year's Day, hoped to be legitimate contenders in the West Division and stood a strong chance of making it to back-to-back bowl games for the first time in school history. Instead, UNLV will have to settle for trying to put together consecutive winning seasons for the first time since 1983-84.

DEVANTE DAVIS

THE QUOTE

"Continuity was the key to their turnaround. Not often in our game are coaches allowed to stick with it like UNLV allowed Bobby Hauck to do."

— An opposing Mountain West assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	**81**	**Devante Davis (Sr.)**	9	Aaron Criswell (Sr.)
WR	**18**	**Marcus Sullivan (Sr.)**	6	Anthony Williams (Jr.)
LT	**69**	**Brett Boyko (Sr.)**	71	Tim Clarkson (So.)
LG	**78**	**Cameron Jefferson (Sr.)**	60	Eric Noone (So.)
C	**79**	**Robert Waterman (Sr.)**	58	Brian Roth (Sr.)
RG	77	Nick Gstrein (Jr.)	66	Charles Howard (So.)
RT	**73**	**Andrew Oberg (Jr.)**	76	Kyle Saxelid (Fr.)
TE	**46**	**Jake Phillips (Jr.)**	88	Andrew Price (So.)
QB	3	Nick Sherry (Jr.)	5	Blake Decker (Jr.)
FB	16	Taylor Barnhill (Sr.)	86	Andrew Casey (Sr.)
RB	33	Shaquille Murray-Lawrence (Sr.)	28	Keith Whitely (So.)

DEFENSE (5)

DE	**93**	**Sonny Sanitoa (Jr.)**	48	Siuea Vaesau (Sr.)
DT	95	David Green (So.)	68	Tuli Fakauho (Jr.)
DT	97	Dominic Baldwin (So.)	96	Efrem Clark (Sr.)
DE	**85**	**Jordan Sparkman (Sr.)**	49	Antonio Zepeda (Fr.)
WLB	55	Tau Lotulelei (So.)	59	D.J. Moffitt (Fr.)
MLB	54	Iggy Porchia (So.)	7	Marc Philippi (So.)
SLB	50	Trent Langham (So.)	23	Matt Lea (Fr.)
CB	**29**	**Tajh Hasson (Sr.)**	19	Torry McTyer (So.)
CB	**17**	**Kenneth Penny (Sr.)**	24	Fred Wilson (Jr.)
SS	**42**	**Peni Vea (Jr.)**	20	Matt Vinai (Sr.)
FS	32	Mike Horsey (Sr.)	11	Troy Hawthorne (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K		Jonathan Leiva (Jr.)	**KR** 18	Marcus Sullivan (Sr.)
P	45	Logan Yunker (Jr.)	**PR** 28	Keith Whitely (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Nick Sherry, 75-41-337-5, 3 TDs
Rushing: Shaquille Murray-Lawrence, 47 att., 418 yds., 2 TDs
Receiving: Devante Davis, 87 rec., 1,290 yds., 14 TDs
Tackles: Peni Vea, 108
Sacks: Sonny Sanitoa, 2; Siuea Vaesau, 2
Interceptions: Peni Vea, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

PAC-12 PREVIEW

MARCUS MARIOTA, OREGON

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

NORTH

1. OREGON **DUCKS** 11-2, 7-2 PAC-12
2. STANFORD **CARDINAL** 9-3, 7-2 PAC-12
3. WASHINGTON **HUSKIES** 9-4, 5-4 PAC-12
4. OREGON STATE **BEAVERS** 6-6, 3-6 PAC-12
5. WASHINGTON STATE **COUGARS** 6-6, 3-6 PAC-12
6. CALIFORNIA **GOLDEN BEARS** 2-10, 1-8 PAC-12

SOUTH

1. UCLA **BRUINS** 10-3, 7-2 PAC-12
2. USC **TROJANS** 9-3, 6-3 PAC-12
3. ARIZONA STATE **SUN DEVILS** 9-3, 6-3 PAC-12
4. ARIZONA **WILDCATS** 7-5, 4-5 PAC-12
5. UTAH **UTES** 6-6, 4-5 PAC-12
6. COLORADO **BUFFALOES** 4-8, 1-8 PAC-12

PAC-12 CHAMPIONSHIP GAME: OREGON OVER UCLA

2014 UNIT RANKINGS

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
ARIZONA	12	10	1	3	11	12	6
ARIZONA STATE	3	3	8	6	6	8	10
CALIFORNIA	10	11	6	11	10	11	11
COLORADO	11	8	12	10	12	10	9
OREGON	1	1	10	2	5	5	4
OREGON STATE	4	7	9	8	9	6	5
STANFORD	5	4	3	1	4	2	3
UCLA	2	5	4	5	2	1	1
USC	6	2	2	7	1	4	2
UTAH	9	9	11	9	7	7	8
WASHINGTON	8	6	7	4	3	3	7
WASHINGTON STATE	7	12	5	12	8	9	12

Mariota: Athlon Sports; Jack: Tim Umphrey

2013 PAC-12 STANDINGS

NORTH	PAC-12	OVERALL	SOUTH	PAC-12	OVERALL
STANFORD	7-2	11-3	ARIZONA STATE	8-1	10-4
OREGON	7-2	11-2	UCLA	6-3	10-3
WASHINGTON	5-4	9-4	USC	6-3	10-4
OREGON STATE	4-5	7-6	ARIZONA	4-5	8-5
WASHINGTON STATE	4-5	6-7	UTAH	2-7	5-7
CALIFORNIA	0-9	1-11	COLORADO	1-8	4-8

MYLES JACK, UCLA

2014 PAC-12 BOWL PROJECTIONS

Fiesta Bowl Oregon vs. South Carolina
Cotton Bowl UCLA vs. Baylor
Alamo Bowl Stanford vs. Texas
Holiday Bowl USC vs. Michigan
Fight Hunger Bowl Arizona State vs. Minnesota
Sun Bowl Washington vs. Miami (Fla.)
Las Vegas Bowl Arizona vs. Boise State
Armed Forces Bowl Oregon State vs. Houston
Independence Bowl Utah vs. Duke
Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl Washington State vs. Texas Tech

2013 PAC-12 BOWL RESULTS

New Mexico Bowl Colorado State 48, Washington State 45
Las Vegas Bowl USC 45, Fresno State 20
Hawaii Bowl Oregon State 38, Boise State 23
Fight Hunger Bowl Washington 31, BYU 16
Holiday Bowl Texas Tech 37, Arizona State 23
Alamo Bowl Oregon 30, Texas 7
AdvoCare V100 Bowl Arizona 42, Boston College 19
Sun Bowl UCLA 42, Virginia Tech 12
Rose Bowl Michigan State 24, Stanford 20

RECRUITING BY SCHOOL

1. USC 2. Stanford 3. UCLA 4. Oregon 5. Arizona State 6. Arizona 7. Washington 8. California 9. Oregon State 10. Washington State 11. Utah 12. Colorado

PRESEASON ALL-PAC-12 TEAM

FIRST-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	MARCUS MARIOTA	6-4	215	Jr.	Oregon
RB	JAVORIUS ALLEN	6-1	215	Jr.	USC
RB	BYRON MARSHALL	5-10	201	Jr.	Oregon
WR	NELSON AGHOLOR	6-0	185	Jr.	USC
WR	JAELEN STRONG	6-4	212	Jr.	Arizona State
TE	CONNOR HAMLETT	6-7	265	Sr.	Oregon State
C	HRONISS GRASU	6-3	297	Sr.	Oregon
G	JOSH GARNETT	6-5	316	Jr.	Stanford
G	ALEX REDMOND	6-5	300	So.	UCLA
T	MICKEY BAUCUS	6-8	305	Sr.	Arizona
T	ANDRUS PEAT	6-7	312	Jr.	Stanford

FIRST-TEAM DEFENSE

DE	HENRY ANDERSON	6-6	295	Sr.	Stanford
DE	LEONARD WILLIAMS	6-5	290	Jr.	USC
DT	KENNETH CLARK	6-3	315	So.	UCLA
DT	DANNY SHELTON	6-2	331	Sr.	Washington
LB	MYLES JACK	6-1	230	So.	UCLA
LB	ERIC KENDRICKS	6-0	230	Sr.	UCLA
LB	SHAQ THOMPSON	6-2	231	Jr.	Washington
CB	IFO EKPRE-OLOMU	5-10	195	Sr.	Oregon
CB	MARCUS PETERS	6-0	198	Jr.	Washington
S	SU'A CRAVENS	6-1	215	So.	USC
S	JORDAN RICHARDS	5-11	208	Sr.	Stanford

FIRST-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	ANDY PHILLIPS	5-10	207	So.	Utah
P	TOM HACKETT	5-11	187	Jr.	Utah
KR	TY MONTGOMERY	6-2	215	Sr.	Stanford
PR	NELSON AGHOLOR	6-0	185	Jr.	USC

SECOND-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	BRETT HUNDLEY	6-3	227	Jr.	UCLA
RB	D.J. FOSTER	5-11	203	Jr.	Arizona State
RB	THOMAS TYNER	5-11	215	So.	Oregon
WR	AUSTIN HILL	6-3	210	Sr.	Arizona
WR	TY MONTGOMERY	6-2	215	Sr.	Stanford
TE	THOMAS DUARTE	6-3	225	So.	UCLA
C	ISAAC SEUMALO	6-4	297	Jr.	Oregon State
G	DEXTER CHARLES	6-5	278	Jr.	Washington
G	DANIEL MUNYER	6-2	295	Sr.	Colorado
T	JAMIL DOUGLAS	6-4	300	Sr.	Arizona State
T	TYLER JOHNSTONE	6-6	283	Jr.	Oregon

SECOND-TEAM DEFENSE

DE	HAU'OLI KIKAHA	6-3	250	Sr.	Washington
DE	EDDIE VANDERDOES	6-4	310	So.	UCLA
DT	DAVID PARRY	6-2	303	Sr.	Stanford
LB	ADDISON GILLAM	6-3	225	So.	Colorado
LB	HAYES PULLARD	6-1	230	Sr.	USC
LB	A.J. TARPLEY	6-2	238	Sr.	Stanford
LB	TONY WASHINGTON	6-3	250	Sr.	Oregon
CB	ALEX CARTER	6-0	200	Jr.	Stanford
CB	JOSH SHAW	6-1	195	Sr.	USC
S	RANDALL GOFORTH	5-10	180	Jr.	UCLA
S	ERIC ROWE	6-1	201	Sr.	Utah

SECOND-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	ZANE GONZALEZ	6-1	184	So.	Arizona State
P	DARRAGH O'NEILL	6-2	190	Sr.	Colorado
KR	JOHN ROSS	5-11	180	So.	Washington
PR	BARRY SANDERS	5-10	192	So.	Stanford

CALIFORNIA GOLDEN BEARS

NATIONAL FORECAST **76**
PAC-12 NORTH PREDICTION **6**

Head Coach: Sonny Dykes
Record at School: 1-11 (1 year)
Career Record: 23-26 (4 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Tony Franklin
Defensive Coordinator: Art Kaufman
Berkeley, CA
Memorial Stadium (62,467)

2014 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 2-10, 1-8 (PAC-12)

August	
30	at Northwestern
September	
6	Sacramento State
20	at Arizona
27	Colorado
October	
4	at Washington State
11	Washington
18	UCLA
24	vs. Oregon #
November	
1	at Oregon State
13	at USC
22	Stanford
29	BYU

#Santa Clara, CA

2013 RESULTS (1-11, 0-9)

Aug. 31	Northwestern	L	30–44
Sept. 7	Portland State	W	37–30
Sept. 14	Ohio State	L	34–52
Sept. 28	at Oregon	L	16–55
Oct. 5	Washington State	L	22–44
Oct. 12	at UCLA	L	10–37
Oct. 19	Oregon State	L	17–49
Oct. 26	at Washington	L	17–41
Nov. 2	Arizona	L	28–33
Nov. 9	USC	L	28–62
Nov. 16	at Colorado	L	24–41
Nov. 23	at Stanford	L	13–63

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Erik Brown, WR, Fontana, CA
2. Devante Downs, ATH, Mountlake Terrace, WA
3. Chandler Leniu, LB, Lakewood, CA
4. Tre Watson, RB, Corona, CA
5. Darius White, CB, Grenada, MS*
6. Vic Enwere, RB, Missouri City, TX
7. Trevor Kelly, DT, South San Francisco, CA*
8. Trevor Davis, WR, Martinez, CA
9. Jonathan Johnson, DE, Pittsburgh, PA*
10. Luke Rubenzer, QB, Scottsdale, AZ

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Pac-12	National
Scoring	23.0 ppg	12	96
Rushing	122.2 ypg	9	107
Passing	331.4 ypg	3	10
Total	453.6 ypg	6	34
Defense	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
Scoring	45.9 ppg	12	122
Rushing	188.6 ypg	10	86
Passing	341.0 ypg	12	123
Total	529.6 ypg	12	122
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
-15	-1.3	12	122

OFFENSE Jared Goff's freshman season began last fall with a 450-yard passing performance against Northwestern and ended with a shoulder separation against Stanford. In between, Goff set school records for most yards in a game (504) and a season (3,508) in the fast-paced, no-huddle offense. The Bears expect him to be more efficient and have a better command of the offense this fall.

Fully healthy by spring, Goff will only thrive if the running game comes alive. After averaging just 122.2 yards per game, the Bears seek better balance. "When they're rockin' and rollin' it'll make everything happen easier," Goff says of the Bears' running backs.

Fast but undersized sophomore Khalfani Muhammad and injury-plagued junior Daniel Lasco will get first shot at the tailback spot, but freshman Tre Watson, who rushed for 3,434 yards and 48 touchdowns as a high school senior, will get a look. The Bears' deepest group is receiver, where juniors Chris Harper and Bryce Treggs combined for 147 receptions last season, but only six TDs.

It will only click if the experience gained by a young O-line translates into a more productive unit this season. Eight returnees, led by center Jordan Rigsbee and left tackle Steven Moore, combined for 51 starts on the line last season.

DEFENSE Stripped of five would-be starters, who missed most or all of the season because of injuries, the Bears were helpless on defense last season. They allowed 45.9 points per game — worst in school history — prompting three changes on the defensive coaching staff. New defensive coordinator Art Kaufman brings a simplified system that will include more blitzing and more man-to-man coverage in the secondary. "This year communication is a lot better," linebacker Jalen Jefferson says. "Guys feel confident out there. We're moving in the right direction."

Defensive line remains perhaps the biggest question mark on the team after the departure of players who accounted for 37 of 48 starts. Two key players are end Brennan Scarlett and tackle Mustafa Jalil, former top-10 national recruits at their positions who were both sidelined last season by injuries. Scarlett, moved from outside linebacker to utilize his pass-rush abilities, "can be a dominant player," coach Sonny Dykes says.

Also back after a year on the shelf are safeties Avery Sebastian (Achilles) and Stefan McClure (knee), anchoring a secondary that allowed 32 touchdown passes last season.

SPECIALISTS The Bears' special teams hit rock bottom in a 62–28 home loss to USC in which the Trojans returned two punts for touchdowns and a blocked punt for a third. Punter Cole Leininger actually had a solid sophomore season, averaging nearly 43 yards per kick. Sophomore Noah Beito will try to replace departed senior Vincenzo D'Amato, who converted 17-of-20 field goals.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Golden Bears are starting from an unfamiliar place — the bottom. Dykes' debut season in Berkeley was a disaster in every way, and the new regime still is looking for its first victory over an FBS team. The Bears should be deeper and more experienced, and Dykes saw a new resolve during spring ball.

"That's been the most impressive thing, their mentality," Dykes says. "They've moved on." Adds running back Muhammad: "A season like that, it hurts. It hurt every game. It's a new year. We all come in here with a lot of confidence."

Still, there are more questions than answers, and victories are hard to find on a schedule featuring the steadily improving Pac-12 and non-conference games against Northwestern and BYU. How much improvement shows in the standings remains to be seen. Acknowledged Dykes: "We're a work in progress."

STAT CORNER

98.5

Percentage of California's total passes thrown by a freshman in 2013. A freshman led the team in rushing as well.

JARED GOFF

Peter Brouillet

THE QUOTE

"They basically needed to score 50 points to win last year because the defense was so bad, and they couldn't do it."

— An opposing Pac-12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	10	Darius Powe (Jr.)	11	Ray Hudson (Fr.)
WR	**1**	**Bryce Treggs (Jr.)**	89	Stephen Anderson (Jr.)
WR	4	Kenny Lawler (So.)	3	Maurice Harris (Jr.)
WR	**6**	**Chris Harper (Jr.)**	9	Trevor Davis (Jr.)
LT	**64**	**Steven Moore (So.)**	75	Aaron Cochran (Fr.)
LG	66	Chris Borrayo (So.)	74	Matt Cochran (So.)
C	**73**	**Jordan Rigsbee (Jr.)**	58	Chris Adcock (Sr.)
RG	**71**	**Alejandro Crosthwaite (Sr.)**	78	Vincent Johnson (Fr.)
RT	59	Brian Farley (Jr.)	76	Christian Okafor (So.)
QB	**16**	**Jared Goff (So.)**	7	Austin Hinder (Sr.)
RB	2	Daniel Lasco (Jr.)	29	Khalfani Muhammad (So.)

DEFENSE (4)

DE	17	Brennan Scarlett (Jr.)	75	Puka Lopa (Jr.)
DT	90	Mustafa Jalil (Jr.)	92	Marcus Manley (So.)
DT	80	Harrison Wilfley (Sr.)	91	Trevor Kelly (Jr.)
DE	13	Kyle Kragen (Sr.)	99	Sione Sina (Jr.)
OLB	**7**	**Jalen Jefferson (Jr.)**	31	Ray Davison (Fr.)
MLB	8	Michael Barton (So.)	22	Nate Broussard (Jr.)
OLB	19	Maximo Espitia (Jr.)	**47**	**Hardy Nickerson (So.)**
CB	2	Darius Allensworth (Fr.)	37	Cedric Dozier (So.)
CB	**3**	**Cameron Walker (So.)**	6	Darius White (Jr.)
FS	21	Stefan McClure (Jr.)	27	Damariay Drew (So.)
SS	4	Avery Sebastian (Jr.)	**5**	**Michael Lowe (Sr.)**

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	19	Noah Beito (So.)	KR	29	Khalfani Muhammad (So.)
P	16	Cole Leininger (Jr.)	PR	1	Bryce Treggs (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Jared Goff, 531-320-3,508-10, 18 TDs
Rushing: Khalfani Muhammad, 74 att., 445 yds., 4 TDs
Receiving: Bryce Treggs, 77 rec., 751 yds., 1 TD
Tackles: Michael Lowe, 67
Sacks: Jalen Jefferson, 3.0; Kyle Kragen, 3.0
Interceptions: 3 players tied with 1

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

OREGON DUCKS

NATIONAL FORECAST **6**
PAC-12 NORTH PREDICTION **1**

Head Coach: Mark Helfrich
Record at School: 11-2 (1 year)
Career Record: 11-2 (1 year)
Offensive Coordinator: Scott Frost
Defensive Coordinator: Don Pellum
Eugene, OR
Autzen Stadium (54,000)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 11-2, 7-2 (PAC-12)

August	
30	South Dakota
September	
6	Michigan State
13	Wyoming
20	at Washington State
October	
2	Arizona
11	at UCLA
18	Washington
24	vs. California #
November	
1	Stanford
8	at Utah
22	Colorado
29	at Oregon State

#Santa Clara, CA

2013 RESULTS (11-2, 7-2)

Aug. 31	Nicholls	W	66–3
Sept. 7	at Virginia	W	59–10
Sept. 14	Tennessee	W	59–14
Sept. 28	California	W	55–16
Oct. 5	at Colorado	W	57–16
Oct. 12	at Washington	W	45–24
Oct. 19	Washington State	W	62–38
Oct. 26	UCLA	W	42–14
Nov. 7	at Stanford	L	20–26
Nov. 16	Utah	W	44–21
Nov. 23	at Arizona	L	16–42
Nov. 29	Oregon State	W	36–35
Dec. 30	vs. Texas #	W	30–7

#Alamo Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Royce Freeman, RB, Imperial, CA
2. Arrion Springs, CB, San Antonio, TX
3. Jalen Brown, WR, Phoenix, AZ
4. Morgan Mahalak, QB, Kentfield, CA
5. Tony James, RB, Gainesville, FL
6. Jimmie Swain, LB, Olathe, KS
7. Haniteli Lousi, G, Fremont, CA*
8. Tui Talia, DE, Concord, CA*
9. Mattrell McGraw, S, River Ridge, LA
10. Tyrell Crosby, T, Henderson, NV

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Pac-12	National
Scoring	45.5 ppg	1	4
Rushing	273.5 ypg	1	9
Passing	291.5 ypg	4	21
Total	565.0 ypg	1	2
Defense	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
Scoring	20.5 ppg	2	13
Rushing	165.5 ypg	6	66
Passing	204.5 ypg	1	21
Total	370.1 ypg	3	37
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
+10	+0.8	2	17

OFFENSE A leading Heisman candidate until his knee injury in 2013, Marcus Mariota was considered a potential No. 1 overall pick in the 2014 NFL Draft, but he decided another year of college seasoning was better for his long-term future. He'd do well to stay healthy, because there's no obvious replacement on the depth chart.

It's a different story at running back, where junior Byron Marshall is the Pac-12's top returning rusher after a 1,038-yard season. Young backups Thomas Tyner and Royce Freeman may be even more gifted, if less consistent or experienced.

All five starters are back on the offensive line, led by centers Hroniss Grasu and tackles Tyler Johnstone and Jake Fisher. Guards Hamani Stevens and Cameron Hunt will look to be more physical in 2014, to help address Oregon's red-zone woes last fall. All the depth and experience in the backfield and on the line could signal a more run-based attack this season, particularly considering the loss of the top four receivers from last season, including junior Bralon Addison after his knee injury in the spring. Keanon Lowe and Dwayne Stanford look like solid if unspectacular starters, and Devon Allen and Darren Carrington look like future playmakers out wide.

DEFENSE The Ducks will need to prove on the field in 2014 that their defense can stop powerful, pro-style rushing attacks, and will do so under a new coordinator, with Don Pellum having replaced longtime assistant Nick Aliotti. Pellum pledged to improve Oregon's fundamentals, demand more discipline and streamline things schematically so that the Ducks can play faster.

Projected defensive line starters DeForest Buckner, Alex Balducci and Arik Armstead average about 6'6" and 295 pounds, but after being pushed around by Stanford and Arizona they worked hard to get stronger in the weight room this winter. "It's a big priority," Buckner says. "You look at us and we don't really pass the eyeball test. It's a really big emphasis."

Veterans Tony Washington and Tyson Coleman should hold down the two outside linebacker spots, and in the middle starters Rodney Hardrick and Derrick Malone return along with 2013 backups Rahim Cassell and Joe Walker. They'll work on getting better penetration this season.

The surprising decision by Ifo Ekpre-Olomu to return for his senior season saved the Ducks from needing to replace all four starters in the secondary. Seniors Dior Mathis and Erick Dargan seem poised to finally win starting spots at corner and safety, respectively, and the Ducks believe they have a future star in redshirt freshman safety Tyree Robinson.

SPECIALISTS Matt Wogan capped an inconsistent true freshman season with three field goals in the Alamo Bowl, giving him confidence entering 2014. He's also expected to handle punt duties as a sophomore. Addison's injury cost the Ducks their punt returner. De'Anthony Thomas will be missed on kickoff returns, though Tyner's speed makes him an intriguing option there.

FINAL ANALYSIS With 11 wins, a bowl victory and a No. 9 final ranking, Mark Helfrich experienced unprecedented success for a first-year Oregon coach. It's a reflection of how high the bar is now set that there are still whispers around Eugene about whether Helfrich really was the right guy to replace Chip Kelly. An Alamo Bowl victory over Texas allowed Oregon to finish on a high note, but listless losses to Stanford and Arizona, in which the Cardinal and Wildcats pushed the Ducks around at the line of scrimmage, lingered in the minds of coaches, players and fans alike.

"Those two losses hit us last year," Hardrick says. "We're not satisfied with where we're at."

STAT CORNER

6.3

Opponents required only 6.3 yards to go on third down against the Oregon defense. That ranked the Ducks 113th in the nation.

MARCUS MARIOTA

Steve Dipaola

THE QUOTE

"The whole thing that happened to them was Marcus Mariota was hurt for 4-5 games. When he was running, nobody was beating them."

— An opposing Pac-12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (8)

WR	7	**Keanon Lowe (Sr.)**	13	Devon Allen (Fr.)
WR	18	Dwayne Stanford (So.)	23	B.J. Kelley (Jr.)
WR	87	Darren Carrington (Fr.)	1	Chance Allen (So.)
LT	64	**Tyler Johnstone (Jr.)**	72	Andre Yruretagoyena (Jr.)
LG	54	**Hamani Stevens (Sr.)**	77	Haniteli Lousi (Jr.)
C	55	**Hroniss Grasu (Sr.)**	57	Doug Brenner (Fr.)
RG	78	**Cameron Hunt (So.)**	76	Jake Pisarcik (Fr.)
RT	75	**Jake Fisher (Sr.)**	79	Evan Voeller (Fr.)
TE	85	Pharaoh Brown (Jr.)	81	Evan Baylis (So.)
QB	8	**Marcus Mariota (Jr.)**	3	Jake Rodrigues (So.)
RB	9	**Byron Marshall (Jr.)**	24	Thomas Tyner (So.)

DEFENSE (5)

DE	44	**DeForest Buckner (Jr.)**	45	T.J. Daniel (So.)
DT	56	Alex Balducci (Jr.)	99	Sam Kamp (Jr.)
DE	9	Arik Armstead (Jr.)	55	Tui Talia (Jr.)
OLB	91	**Tony Washington (Sr.)**	96	Christian French (Jr.)
ILB	48	**Rodney Hardrick (Jr.)**	35	Joe Walker (Jr.)
ILB	22	**Derrick Malone (Sr.)**	34	Rahim Cassell (Jr.)
OLB	33	Tyson Coleman (Jr.)	86	Torrodney Prevot (So.)
CB	14	**Ifo Ekpre-Olomu (Sr.)**	6	Dominique Harrison (Jr.)
CB	3	Dior Mathis (Sr.)	13	Troy Hill (Sr.)
S	4	Erick Dargan (Sr.)	5	Issac Dixon (Jr.)
S	2	Tyree Robinson (Fr.)	8	Reggie Daniels (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	49	Matt Wogan (So.)	KR 24	Thomas Tyner (So.)
P	49	Matt Wogan (So.)	PR 4	Erick Dargan (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Marcus Mariota, 386-245-3,665-4, 31 TDs
Rushing: Byron Marshall, 168 att., 1,038 yds., 14 TDs
Receiving: Bralon Addison, 61 rec., 890 yds., 7 TDs
Tackles: Derrick Malone, 105
Sacks: Tony Washington, 7.5
Interceptions: Ifo Ekpre-Olomu, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

OREGON STATE BEAVERS

NATIONAL FORECAST **53**
PAC-12 NORTH PREDICTION **4**

Head Coach: Mike Riley
Record at School: 88-73 (13 years)
Career Record: 88-73 (13 years)
Offensive Coordinator: John Garrett
Defensive Coordinator: Mark Banker
Corvallis, OR
Reser Stadium (45,674)

2014 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 6-6, 3-6 (PAC-12)

August		
30	Portland State	
September		
6	at Hawaii	
20	San Diego State	
27	at USC	
October		
4	at Colorado	
16	Utah	
25	at Stanford	
November		
1	California	
8	Washington State	
15	Arizona State	
22	at Washington	
29	Oregon	

2013 RESULTS (7-6, 4-5)

Aug. 31	Eastern Washington	L	46-49
Sept. 7	Hawaii	W	33-14
Sept. 14	at Utah (ot)	W	51-48
Sept. 21	at San Diego State	W	34-30
Sept. 28	Colorado	W	44-17
Oct. 12	at Washington State	W	52-24
Oct. 19	at California	W	49-17
Oct. 26	Stanford	L	12-20
Nov. 1	USC	L	14-31
Nov. 16	at Arizona State	L	17-30
Nov. 23	Washington	L	27-69
Nov. 29	at Oregon	L	35-36
Dec. 24	vs. Boise State #	W	38-23

#Hawaii Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Datrin Guyton, WR, Manor, TX
2. Kalani Vakameilalo, DL, Kapolei, HI
3. Demarlon Morris, DB, Chicago, IL*
4. Kammy Delp, OL, Pomona, CA
5. Adam Soesman, DB, Clovis, CA
6. Nick Mitchell, QB, North Bend, WA
7. Marcus McMaryion, QB, Dinuba, CA
8. Drew Clarkson, C, Camas, WA
9. Tanner Sanders, ATH, Corvallis, OR
10. Lamone Williams, DL, Kahuku, HI

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Pac-12	National
Scoring	34.8 ppg	5	29
Rushing	94.4 ypg	11	115
Passing	372.6 ypg	1	3
Total	467.0 ypg	3	26
Defense	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
Scoring	31.4 ppg	9	90
Rushing	190.3 ypg	11	88
Passing	246.3 ypg	7	84
Total	436.6 ypg	9	100
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
+3	+0.2	7	42

OFFENSE The Beavers breathed a sigh of relief when quarterback Sean Mannion elected to return for his senior season after considering early entry into the NFL Draft. Mannion was inconsistent his first two years with the Beavers and was benched at the end of his junior season, but he re-established himself as the starter heading into 2013 and had a record-setting year. Mannion broke the Pac-12 single-season record with 4,662 passing yards, and he threw 37 touchdowns.

He lost his top target when Brandin Cooks opted to leave early for the NFL after leading the nation with 1,730 receiving yards and winning the Biletnikoff Award. Junior Richard Mullaney started across from Cooks and is the top returning receiver with 52 catches for 788 yards and three touchdowns. No other returning wide receiver had more than seven catches. Oregon State has a strong group of tight ends, led by Connor Hamlett, who was fourth on the team with 40 catches for 364 yards and five touchdowns. Caleb Smith also started several games and finished with 25 catches for 343 yards and four touchdowns.

The Beavers have to give Mannion more help in the running game after ranking 11th in the conference with only 94.4 rushing yards per game. OSU does return its top two rushers from last season, Terron Ward (521 yards) and Storm Woods (477).

Oregon State returns only two starters on the offensive line, guard Sean Harlow and center Isaac Seumalo. This could be a problem area.

STAT CORNER

151

Gains of at least 20 yards in 2013 Oregon State games — 84 for the Beavers (11th in the country), 67 for opponents (94th).

DEFENSE The Beavers return a wealth of experience at linebacker, where Jabral Johnson, D.J. Alexander and Rommel Mageo combined for 29 starts last season. Michael Doctor started 25 straight games before suffering a season-ending ankle injury in the second game last year. He received a medical redshirt from the NCAA to return for one more year. Doctor, who has 185 tackles in his career, will start at outside linebacker along with Alexander.

Safeties Ryan Murphy and Tyrequek Zimmerman are back along with cornerback Steven Nelson. Murphy and Nelson both received honorable mention, All-Pac-12 honors last season.

OSU will need to rebuild its defensive line after Scott Crichton left early for the NFL Draft, leaving defensive end Dylan Wynn as the only returning starter. Senior Siale Hautau and junior Jalen Grimble are the projected starters inside, while Jaswha James is expected to start on the end.

SPECIALISTS Trevor Romaine will be the kicker for the fourth season in a row as he looks to bounce back to the form he showed as a sophomore. Romaine was 16-for-18 in 2012 before going 14-for-20 on field goals last season. Punter Keith Kostol was also better as a sophomore when he averaged 41.9 yards per kick before falling to 40.5 yards last year. Victor Bolden was seventh in the conference with 20.7 yards per kickoff return as a freshman and could also be a candidate to replace Cooks as the punt returner.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Beavers return one of the nation's top quarterbacks in Mannion, but he will be operating without Cooks and must adapt to new offensive coordinator John Garrett, who spent the last seven seasons in the NFL. The defense, with seven returning starters, should be better under veteran coordinator Mark Banker.

The Beavers should get off to a good start with non-conference home games against Portland State and San Diego State along with a trip to Hawaii before opening Pac-12 play with back-to-back road games at USC and Colorado. This looks like another bowl team, but Oregon State doesn't figure to pose too much of a threat to the top teams in the tough Pac-12 North.

SEAN MANNION

Craig Mitchelldyer

THE QUOTE

"I thought they did a good job getting the ball to the running backs in the passing game. Sean Mannion can make every throw."

— An opposing Pac-12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	**8**	**Richard Mullaney (Jr.)**	85	JC Grim (So.)
WR	18	Malik Gilmore (So.)	20	Blair Cavanaugh (So.)
WR	6	Victor Bolden (So.)	16	Walter Jones (Fr.)
LT	79	Bobby Keenan (Jr.)	74	Dustin Stanton (So.)
LG	**77**	**Sean Harlow (So.)**	73	Devan Filipe (Sr.)
C	**56**	**Isaac Seumalo (Jr.)**	65	Roman Sapolu (Sr.)
RG	70	Grant Bays (So.)	64	Fred Lauina (Fr.)
RT	62	Gavin Andrews (Jr.)	68	Nolan Hansen (So.)
TE	**89**	**Connor Hamlett (Sr.)**	**10**	**Caleb Smith (Jr.)**
QB	**4**	**Sean Mannion (Sr.)**	5	Brent VanderVeen (So.)
RB	**24**	**Storm Woods (Jr.)**	28	Terron Ward (Sr.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	48	Jaswha James (Jr.)	75	Titus Failauga (Fr.)
DT	10	Jalen Grimble (Jr.)	91	Noke Tago (So.)
DT	98	Siale Hautau (Sr.)	96	Edwin Delva (Sr.)
DE	**45**	**Dylan Wynn (Sr.)**	59	Lavonte Barnett (Jr.)
OLB	**4**	**D.J. Alexander (Sr.)**	17	Cyril Noland-Lewis (So.)
MLB	**44**	**Jabral Johnson (Sr.)**	**46**	**Rommel Mageo (So.)**
OLB	40	Michael Doctor (Sr.)	35	Caleb Saulo (So.)
CB	**7**	**Steven Nelson (Sr.)**	22	Malcolm Marable (Sr.)
CB	15	Larry Scott (Jr.)	9	Dashon Hunt (Fr.)
SS	**8**	**Tyrequek Zimmerman (Sr.)**	37	Micah Audiss (Jr.)
FS	**25**	**Ryan Murphy (Sr.)**	36	Zack Robinson (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	12	Trevor Romaine (Sr.)	KR	6	Victor Bolden (So.)
P	48	Keith Kostol (Sr.)	PR	6	Victor Bolden (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Sean Mannion, 603-400-4,662-15, 37 TDs
Rushing: Terron Ward, 113 att., 521 yds., 5 TDs
Receiving: Richard Mullaney, 52 rec., 788 yds., 3 TDs
Tackles: Tyrequek Zimmerman, 104
Sacks: D.J. Alexander, 2.0
Interceptions: Steven Nelson, 6

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

STANFORD CARDINAL

NATIONAL FORECAST 12
PAC-12 NORTH PREDICTION 2

Head Coach: David Shaw
Record at School: 34-7 (3 years)
Career Record: 34-7 (3 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Mike Bloomgren
Defensive Coordinator: Lance Anderson
Stanford, CA
Stanford Stadium (50,424)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 9-3, 7-2 (PAC-12)

August	
30	UC Davis
September	
6	USC
13	Army
27	at Washington
October	
4	at Notre Dame
10	Washington State
18	at Arizona State
25	Oregon State
November	
1	at Oregon
15	Utah
22	at California
28	at UCLA

2013 RESULTS (11-3, 7-2)

Sept. 7	San Jose State	W	34–13
Sept. 14	at Army	W	34–20
Sept. 21	Arizona State	W	42–28
Sept. 28	vs. Wash. State &	W	55–17
Oct. 5	Washington	W	31–28
Oct. 12	at Utah	L	21–27
Oct. 19	UCLA	W	24–10
Oct. 26	at Oregon State	W	20–12
Nov. 7	Oregon	W	26–20
Nov. 16	at USC	L	17–20
Nov. 23	California	W	63–13
Nov. 30	Notre Dame	W	27–20
Dec. 7	at Arizona State %	W	38–14
Jan. 1	vs. Michigan State #	L	20–24

&Seattle %Pac-12 Championship #Rose Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Solomon Thomas, DE, Coppell, TX
2. Keller Chryst, QB, Palo Alto, CA
3. Casey Tucker, OL, Gilbert, AZ
4. Christian McCaffrey, RB, Castle Rock, CO
5. Dalton Schultz, TE, South Jordan, UT
6. Bobby Okereke, LB, Santa Ana, CA
7. Joey Alfieri, LB, Portland, OR
8. Brandon Simmons, S, Mansfield, TX
9. Reilly Gibbons, OL, Clearwater, FL
10. Alijah Holder, CB, Oceanside, CA

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Pac-12	National
Scoring	32.3 ppg	7	45
Rushing	207.4 ypg	4	22
Passing	197.9 ypg	11	92
Total	405.4 ypg	9	69
Defense	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
Scoring	19.0 ppg	1	10
Rushing	89.4 ypg	1	3
Passing	253.8 ypg	8	96
Total	343.1 ypg	2	16
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
0	0.0	8	61

OFFENSE After back-to-back seasons in which Stanford's primary running back had more than 300 carries, coach David Shaw is looking to return to a committee approach. Remound Wright, Kelsey Young, Ricky Seale and Barry Sanders are all in the mix for carries. Each one does one or two things well, but none, per one offensive coach, does everything well enough, at this point, to seize control of the job.

Quarterback Kevin Hogan returns after a steady 2013 in which he tossed 20 touchdowns and 10 interceptions. He didn't make the developmental leap the coaches had hoped for, but it's tough to argue with his winning percentage. Since taking over as the starter midway through 2012, he has a 16–3 record, including a 10–1 mark against ranked teams.

The receiving corps is loaded with playmakers. Ty Montgomery, who caught 61 passes for 958 yards and 10 touchdowns, is the top returning target, but Devon Cajuste (22.9 ypc) and Michael Rector (30.8 ypc) are both big-time downfield threats.

The Cardinal have to replace four starters on the offensive line, most notably All-America guard David Yankey. But all five projected starters are from the heralded 2012 recruiting class. Left tackle Andrus Peat should get All-America consideration.

With a talented young crop of tight ends, look for Stanford to return to the multi-tight end formations that made them so potent in the days of Coby Fleener, Zach Ertz and Levine Toilolo.

STAT CORNER

+7.6

Stanford's field position margin in conference play, best in the Pac-12. Tilt the field, then run downhill: That's the Cardinal way.

DEFENSE Lance Anderson moves into the defensive coordinator spot to replace Derek Mason, who left to be the head coach at Vanderbilt. The Cardinal have produced one of the top pressure defenses in the country the last few years with their 3-4 scheme. And despite personnel losses like Shayne Skov, Trent Murphy, Ben Gardner and Ed Reynolds, this group should be no exception.

Defensive end Henry Anderson should be in the running for all-conference honors playing alongside returning tackle David Parry. The defensive front has some youth, but it also has a lot of depth.

Inside linebacker A.J. Tarpley has quietly been one of the best run-stoppers in the conference the last couple of seasons. Replacing Murphy's production at outside linebacker will be tough, but Kevin Anderson and James Vaughters have experience.

Free safety Jordan Richards should receive All-America consideration, but the Cardinal lose Reynolds at strong safety and will look to the duo of Kyle Olugbode and Zach Hoffpauir to fill the void. Alex Carter, who battled a hip injury in the spring, and Wayne Lyons are both back at their starting corner spots.

SPECIALISTS The Cardinal return both of their specialists, kicker Jordan Williamson and punter Ben Rhyne. Only one other team in the conference attempted more field goals than Stanford last season, and Williamson converted 81.1 percent of his kicks (18-of-22). Rhyne was solid with an average of 42.9 yards per punt, ranking second in the league. Montgomery is just as dangerous as a kick returner as he is as a receiver. He took two kicks back for touchdowns last season and averaged a league-best 30.3 yards per return. The punt return spot is up in the air, but it could fall to Sanders, who split time with Kodi Whitfield last season and averaged 10.1 yards per return.

FINAL ANALYSIS Despite the losses of key players on both sides of the ball, Stanford is once again stocked with top talent at almost every position, and the Cardinal should contend for a third straight Pac-12 title. Oregon still figures to be Stanford's biggest hurdle in the North Division, making the Nov. 1 date in Eugene the game of the year in the conference.

KEVIN HOGAN

Peter Brouillet

THE QUOTE

"One thing they might be missing is the elite tight ends they had in the past. Last year's guys didn't have as much experience."

— An opposing Pac-12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (4)

WR	7	**Ty Montgomery (Sr.)**	87	Jordan Pratt (Jr.)
WR	89	**Devon Cajuste (Jr.)**	3	Michael Rector (So.)
LT	70	**Andrus Peat (Jr.)**		Casey Tucker (Fr.)
LG	98	Joshua Garnett (Jr.)	64	David Bright (Fr.)
C	95	Graham Shuler (So.)	63	Kevin Reihner (Jr.)
RG	46	Johnny Caspers (So.)	74	Brendon Austin (Jr.)
RT	94	Kyle Murphy (Jr.)	66	Nick Davidson (So.)
TE	86	Charlie Hopkins (Jr.)	84	Austin Hooper (Fr.)
QB	8	**Kevin Hogan (Jr.)**	5	Evan Crower (Jr.)
FB	36	Lee Ward (Sr.)	24	Patrick Skov (Jr.)
RB	22	Remound Wright (Jr.)	30	Ricky Seale (Sr.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	91	**Henry Anderson (Sr.)**	99	Luke Kaumatule (Jr.)
DT	58	**David Parry (Sr.)**	95	Lance Callihan (Jr.)
DE	43	Blake Lueders (Sr.)	7	Aziz Shittu (Jr.)
OLB	48	Kevin Anderson (Jr.)	40	Joe Hemschoot (Sr.)
ILB	17	**A.J. Tarpley (Sr.)**	3	Noor Davis (So.)
ILB	4	Blake Martinez (Jr.)	44	Kevin Palma (Fr.)
OLB	9	**James Vaughters (Sr.)**	34	Peter Kalambayi (Fr.)
CB	25	**Alex Carter (Jr.)**	21	Ronnie Harris (Jr.)
CB	2	**Wayne Lyons (Sr.)**	38	Ra'Chard Pippens (Jr.)
SS	22	Kyle Olugbode (Sr.)	10	Zach Hoffpauir (Jr.)
FS	8	**Jordan Richards (Sr.)**	9	Kodi Whitfield (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	19	Jordan Williamson (Sr.)	KR	7	Ty Montgomery (Sr.)
P	14	Ben Rhyne (Sr.)	PR	26	Barry Sanders (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Kevin Hogan, 295-180-2,630-10, 20 TDs
Rushing: Kevin Hogan, 84 att., 355 yds., 2 TDs
Receiving: Ty Montgomery, 61 rec., 958 yds., 10 TDs
Tackles: A.J. Tarpley, 93
Sacks: James Vaughters, 4.0
Interceptions: Jordan Richards, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

WASHINGTON HUSKIES

NATIONAL FORECAST **24**
PAC-12 NORTH PREDICTION **3**

Head Coach: Chris Petersen
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: 92-12 (8 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Jonathan Smith
Defensive Coordinator: Pete Kwiatkowski
Seattle, WA
Husky Stadium (72,500)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 9-4, 5-4 (PAC-12)

August	
30	at Hawaii
September	
6	Eastern Washington
13	Illinois
20	Georgia State
27	Stanford
October	
11	at California
18	at Oregon
25	Arizona State
November	
1	at Colorado
8	UCLA
15	at Arizona
22	Oregon State
29	at Washington State

2013 RESULTS (9-4, 5-4)

Aug. 31	Boise State	W	38–6
Sept. 14	vs. Illinois %	W	34–24
Sept. 21	Idaho State	W	56–0
Sept. 28	Arizona	W	31–13
Oct. 5	at Stanford	L	28–31
Oct. 12	Oregon	L	24–45
Oct. 19	at Arizona State	L	24–53
Oct. 26	California	W	41–17
Nov. 9	Colorado	W	59–7
Nov. 15	at UCLA	L	31–41
Nov. 23	at Oregon State	W	69–27
Nov. 29	Washington State	W	27–17
Dec. 27	vs. BYU #	W	31–16

%Chicago #Fight Hunger Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Budda Baker, DB, Bellevue, WA
2. K.J. Carta-Samuels, QB, Saratoga, CA
3. Kaleb McGary, DL, Fife, WA
4. Naijiel Hale, CB, Lakewood, CA
5. Lavon Washington, DB, Oakland, CA
6. Darren Gardenhire, DB, Lakewood, CA
7. Greg Gaines, DT, La Habra, CA
8. Jaylen Johnson, DL, Corona, CA
9. Jomon Dotson, RB, American Canyon, CA
10. Matt James, OL, Coeur d'Alene, ID

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Pac-12	National
Scoring	37.9 ppg	3	18
Rushing	239.0 ypg	3	15
Passing	260.3 ypg	6	36
Total	499.3 ypg	2	13
Defense	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
Scoring	22.8 ppg	4	29
Rushing	161.3 ypg	5	60
Passing	227.2 ypg	4	59
Total	388.5 ypg	6	55
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
+7	0.5	4	24

OFFENSE The first order of business for new coach Chris Petersen will be to settle on a quarterback. Mobile sophomore Cyler Miles, last season's backup, was the logical choice until the Denver-area product was arrested in connection with a couple of Super Bowl-related altercations involving Seahawks fans. Miles was cleared of any criminal charges but still missed spring practice. Sophomore Jeff Lindquist and redshirt freshman Troy Williams shared spring duties and were inconsistent. The job is far from settled.

Sophomore Dwayne Washington, a 6'2", 221-pounder with breakaway speed, has been groomed to replace Bishop Sankey at running back and has plenty of potential. He snapped off scoring runs of 71 and 32 yards against Oregon State and 52 against Colorado. A wild card is junior linebacker Shaq Thompson, who was given several carries during the spring and was impressive.

The receivers look promising, yet there are nagging issues. Senior Kasen Williams, with career totals of 142 catches for 1,726 yards and 13 scores, is attempting to bounce back from a serious leg injury. Sophomore Damore'ea Stringfellow, a three-game starter, was charged in the Super Bowl incidents and remains suspended indefinitely. Until everyone's status is clear, the Huskies will throw to junior Jaydon Mickens (team-leading 65 catches) and sophomore John Ross, the fastest player on the team. Junior Joshua Perkins, who had three TD catches among five receptions at tight end, is an able replacement for NFL-bound Austin Seferian-Jenkins.

A seasoned offensive line should give the new quarterback and tailback plenty of time to acclimate to their jobs. The Huskies return all five starters, four of whom are seniors.

STAT CORNER

8

Plays of 40 yards or more given up by the Washington defense in 2013. That tied for ninth-fewest in the nation.

DEFENSE The front wall remains solidly intact with starters back at each spot, notably disruptive players in senior end Hau'oli Kikaha and senior tackle Danny Shelton. After missing consecutive seasons with knee injuries, Kikaha recorded 13 sacks and earned second-team All-Pac-12 honors in 2013. The 6'2", 332-pound Shelton is highly effective at stuffing the run.

Proven players are in abundance at linebacker in senior John Timu and Thompson, both returning starters, and junior Travis Feeney, a former starter. Timu will enter his fourth season as a first-team player and brings a steadying influence. The multi-talented Thompson plays like another safety, only closer to the line of scrimmage.

In the secondary, Petersen has major issues. He will build around junior corner Marcus Peters, one of the league's better cover guys. Otherwise, the Huskies will turn to young, untested players to fill in the gaps. Speedy top recruit Budda Baker could find his way into the lineup immediately, either at safety or cornerback. Redshirt freshman corner Jermaine Kelly, one of the UW's top 2013 recruits, is ready to step in.

SPECIALISTS Travis Coons, who handled every field goal, extra point and punt in 2013, has moved on, leaving the kicking game unproven. Replacements are sophomore Cameron Van Winkle, who handled kickoff chores in his first year, and junior Korey Durkee, the UW's starting punter briefly in 2012 who was limited to holder duties last season. The Huskies aren't hurting in the return game. The versatile Ross ran back a kickoff 100 yards for a score in the Fight Hunger Bowl.

FINAL ANALYSIS Petersen inherits the bulk of a 9–4 bowl team left behind by Steve Sarkisian, who bolted after five seasons for USC. Both lines are intact. If he can find some offensive playmakers, namely a quarterback, and rebuild the depleted secondary, Petersen could move the Huskies up a notch right away and make the rest of the Pac-12 understandably uncomfortable.

SHAQ THOMPSON

THE QUOTE

"(Steve Sarkisian) recruited well there but couldn't produce a breakthrough season. With a new coach, (the players) will be motivated."

— An opposing Pac-12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	2	**Kasen Williams (Sr.)**	23	Kendyl Taylor (So.)
WR	4	**Jaydon Mickens (Jr.)**	16	Marvin Hall (Jr.)
WR	1	John Ross (So.)	19	DiAndre Campbell (Sr.)
LT	72	**Micah Hatchie (Sr.)**	52	Jake Eldrenkamp (So.)
LG	64	**Colin Tanigawa (Sr.)**	65	Siosifa Tufunga (Jr.)
C	78	**Mike Criste (Sr.)**	55	Dane Crane (Fr.)
RG	76	**Dexter Charles (Jr.)**	70	James Atoe (Sr.)
RT	59	**Ben Riva (Sr.)**	62	Ross Dolbec (Jr.)
TE	82	Joshua Perkins (Jr.)	84	Michael Hartvigson (Sr.)
QB	10	Cyler Miles (So.)	5	Jeff Lindquist (So.)
RB	12	Dwayne Washington (So.)	24	Jesse Callier (Sr.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	8	**Hau'oli Kikaha (Sr.)**	5	Joe Mathis (So.)
DT	55	**Danny Shelton (Sr.)**	11	Elijah Qualls (Fr.)
DT	80	**Evan Hudson (Sr.)**	90	Taniela Tupou (Jr.)
DE	42	**Cory Littleton (Jr.)**	22	Josh Shirley (Sr.)
OLB	41	Travis Feeney (Jr.)	25	Keishawn Bierria (Fr.)
MLB	10	**John Timu (Sr.)**	36	Azeem Victor (Fr.)
OLB	7	**Shaq Thompson (Jr.)**	47	Scott Lawyer (Jr.)
CB	21	**Marcus Peters (Jr.)**	26	Travell Dixon (Sr.)
CB	6	Jermaine Kelly (Fr.)		Budda Baker (Fr.)
FS	9	Brandon Beaver (So.)	35	Brian Clay (Jr.)
SS	27	Trevor Walker (So.)	20	Kevin King (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	48	Cameron Van Winkle (So.)	KR	1	John Ross (So.)
P	45	Korey Durkee (Jr.)	PR	16	Marvin Hall (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Cyler Miles, 61-37-418-2, 4 TDs
Rushing: Dwayne Washington, 47 att., 332 yds., 4 TDs
Receiving: Jaydon Mickens, 65 rec., 688 yds., 5 TDs
Tackles: Shaq Thompson, 78
Sacks: Hau'oli Kikaha, 13
Interceptions: Marcus Peters, 5

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Athlon Sports

WASHINGTON STATE COUGARS

NATIONAL FORECAST **56**
PAC-12 NORTH PREDICTION **5**

Head Coach: Mike Leach
Record at School: 9-16 (2 years)
Career Record: 93-59 (12 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Mike Leach
Defensive Coordinator: Mike Breske
Pullman, WA
Martin Stadium (31,700)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 6-6, 3-6 (PAC-12)

August	
28	vs. Rutgers #
September	
5	at Nevada
13	Portland State
20	Oregon
27	at Utah
October	
4	California
10	at Stanford
25	Arizona
November	
1	USC
8	at Oregon State
22	at Arizona State
29	Washington

#Seattle, WA

2013 RESULTS (6-7, 4-5)

Aug. 31	at Auburn	L	24-31
Sept. 7	at USC	W	10-7
Sept. 14	Southern Utah	W	48-10
Sept. 21	Idaho	W	42-0
Sept. 28	vs. Stanford %	L	17-55
Oct. 5	at California	W	44-22
Oct. 12	Oregon State	L	24-52
Oct. 19	at Oregon	L	38-62
Oct. 31	Arizona State	L	21-55
Nov. 16	at Arizona	W	24-17
Nov. 23	Utah	W	49-37
Nov. 29	at Washington	L	17-27
Dec. 21	vs. Colorado State #	L	45-48

%Seattle #New Mexico Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Barry Ware, WR, Corona, CA
2. Deion Singleton, DB, Pasco, WA
3. Zaire Andre, WR, Inglewood, CA
4. Calvin Green, WR, Sacramento, CA
5. Squally Canada, RB, Milpitas, CA
6. Keith Harrington, RB, St. Petersburg, FL
7. Peyton Bender, QB, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
8. Greg Hoyd, LB, Murrieta, CA
9. Kevin Griffin, DB, Concord, CA
10. Sulaiman Hameed, ATH, Alameda, CA

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Pac-12	National
Scoring	31.0 ppg	8	52
Rushing	53.4 ypg	12	123
Passing	368.0 ypg	2	4
Total	421.4 ypg	8	54
Defense	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
Scoring	32.5 ppg	10	96
Rushing	187.2 ypg	9	84
Passing	270.8 ypg	11	112
Total	458.0 ypg	10	102
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
-5	-0.4	10	93

Peter Brouillet

OFFENSE Washington State returns many of the components of a passing offense that ranked second in the Pac-12 with 368.0 yards per game. Connor Halliday had 410 passing yards and six touchdown passes in the New Mexico Bowl, but the most impressive part of his day? He threw only one interception in 58 attempts. Halliday enters his senior season with a chance to break all of the school passing records. That's impressive when you think of the QBs who have played at Washington State — Drew Bledsoe, Mark Rypien, Ryan Leaf, Jack Thompson and Jason Gesser, among others.

But Halliday has a tendency to throw too many interceptions. Along with 34 touchdown passes and 4,597 passing yards last year, he threw it to the opposing team 22 times.

As you'd expect with an offense that stresses the passing game, the Cougars are loaded with guys who can stretch the field. It's their strongest position, led by Gabe Marks, who had 74 receptions for 807 yards and seven TDs last year. Four other wideouts had at least 40 receptions.

Offensive line could be a source of concern with the loss of two-time honorable mention All-Pac-12 center Elliott Bosch, right guard Matt Goetz and right tackle John Fullington.

DEFENSE Washington State will need to improve on this side of the ball after ranking 10th in the Pac-12 in total defense (458.0 ypg) and scoring defense (32.5 ppg). The defense did, however, force 30 turnovers, second in the Pac-12 in that category.

WSU had one of the more solid defensive lines in the conference last year and returns the three standouts from that unit — Xavier Cooper, Kalafitoni Pole and Destiny Vaeao. Cooper registered five sacks and 13.5 tackles for a loss last year. Pole's numbers don't match those, but he will be the 290-pound key to WSU's run defense this year.

At linebacker, the Cougars have a hard-hitting group featuring Kache Palacio, Cyrus Coen, Darryl Monroe and Tana Pritchard. Palacio led the linebackers with four sacks and 6.5 tackles behind the line of scrimmage. Monroe, a junior, finished third on the team with 94 tackles.

The Cougars will need to shore up a secondary that lost three of its four starters to graduation, including All-Pac-12 strong safety Deone Bucannon. Daquawn Brown might be the best defensive back, but his status was unclear coming out of spring practice. He was arrested in the offseason on felony second-degree assault and misdemeanor assault charges.

SPECIALISTS Michael Bowlin held the punting job for most of the 2013 season but was replaced late in the year by Wes Concepcion, who will hold the job on a full-time basis this year. Reliable Andrew Furney made 16-of-20 field goals last year, but he graduated. Now it's freshman Erik Powell's job. The left-footed Powell had an outstanding spring, showing accuracy and range. The Cougars have a variety of candidates for kickoff and punt returns. Dom Williams or Rickey Galvin should handle kickoffs, while Robert Lewis is the likely frontrunner for punt returns.

FINAL ANALYSIS Leach has engineered a quick turnaround in Pullman, guiding the Cougars back to a bowl game in his second season. He has eliminated the losing culture and given the program an identity. Leach's third season figures to be similar to his second. The Cougs, with a senior quarterback and solid corps of receivers, will score a ton of points, but the defense remains an issue. Washington State can be a consistent bowl team as it's currently constructed but will need to improve on defense to emerge as a contender in the tough Pac-12 North.

STAT CORNER

3

Runs from scrimmage of more than 20 yards by Washington State in 2013, the fewest in the nation. Oregon averaged more than that per game.

CONNOR HALLIDAY

THE QUOTE

"If you can jump out on them, that's what can hurt them, because they turn the ball over when they get rattled because they throw so much."

— An opposing Pac-12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	1	Vince Mayle (Sr.)	**80**	**Dom Williams (Jr.)**
WR	**84**	**River Cracraft (So.)**	15	Robert Lewis (Fr.)
WR	**9**	**Gabe Marks (Jr.)**	18	Kristoff Williams (Sr.)
WR	5	Rickey Galvin (Sr.)	19	Brett Bartolone (Jr.)
LT	**56**	**Joe Dahl (Jr.)**	69	Devonte McClain (Jr.)
LG	**63**	**Gunnar Eklund (Jr.)**	68	Carlos Freeman (Fr.)
C	64	Sam Flor (So.)	58	Riley Sorenson (So.)
RG	71	Jacob Seydel (Jr.)	73	Eduardo Middleton (So.)
RT	61	Cole Madison (Fr.)	71	Jacob Seydel (Jr.)
QB	**12**	**Connor Halliday (Sr.)**	10	Tyler Bruggman (Fr.)
RB	24	Theron West (Sr.)	38	Jamal Morrow (Fr.)

DEFENSE (6)

DE	**97**	**Destiny Vaeao (Jr.)**	50	Lyman Faoliu (Sr.)
DT	**96**	**Xavier Cooper (Jr.)**	52	Darryl Paulo (Jr.)
NT	**98**	**Kalafitoni Pole (Sr.)**	92	Robert Barber (So.)
OLB	40	Kache Palacio (Jr.)	3	Ivan McLennan (Jr.)
ILB	**42**	**Cyrus Coen (Sr.)**	48	Mitchell Peterson (Sr.)
ILB	**13**	**Darryl Monroe (Jr.)**	8	Jeremiah Allison (Jr.)
OLB	33	Tana Pritchard (Jr.)	51	Peyton Pelluer (Fr.)
CB	16	Charleston White (Fr.)	39	Marcellus Pippins (Fr.)
CB	25	Daquawn Brown (So.)	27	Tracy Clark (Sr.)
FS	**30**	**Taylor Taliulu (Jr.)**	35	Beau Glover (So.)
SS	36	Isaac Dotson (So.)	32	David Bucannon (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	40	Erik Powell (Fr.)	**KR**	5	Rickey Galvin (Sr.)
P	44	Wes Concepcion (Jr.)	**PR**	15	Robert Lewis (Fr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Connor Halliday, 714-449-4,597-22, 34 TDs
Rushing: Marcus Mason, 87 att., 429 yds., 2 TDs
Receiving: Gabe Marks, 74 rec., 807 yds., 7 TDs
Tackles: Darryl Monroe, 94
Sacks: Xavier Cooper, 5
Interceptions: Daquawn Brown, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

ARIZONA WILDCATS

NATIONAL FORECAST **45**
PAC-12 SOUTH PREDICTION **4**

Head Coach: Rich Rodriguez
Record at School: 16-10 (2 years)
Career Record: 136-94-2 (20 years)
Co-Offensive Coordinators: Calvin Magee, Rod Smith
Defensive Coordinator: Jeff Casteel
Tucson, AZ
Arizona Stadium (56,037)

2014 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 7-5, 4-5 (PAC-12)

August	
29	UNLV
September	
4	at UTSA
13	Nevada
20	California
October	
2	at Oregon
11	USC
25	at Washington State
November	
1	at UCLA
8	Colorado
15	Washington
22	at Utah
28	Arizona State

2013 RESULTS (8-5, 4-5)

Aug. 30	Northern Arizona	W	35–0
Sept. 7	at UNLV	W	58–13
Sept. 14	UTSA	W	38–13
Sept. 28	at Washington	L	13–31
Oct. 10	at USC	L	31–38
Oct. 19	Utah	W	35–24
Oct. 26	at Colorado	W	44–20
Nov. 2	at California	W	33–28
Nov. 9	UCLA	L	26–31
Nov. 16	Washington State	L	17–24
Nov. 23	Oregon	W	42–16
Nov. 30	at Arizona State	L	21–58
Dec. 31	vs. Boston College #	W	42–19

#Advocare V100 Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Cam Denson, WR, Tucson, AZ
2. Marquis Ware, LB, Bellflower, CA
3. Jamardre Cobb, LB, Harbor City, CA
4. Nick Wilson, RB, Fresno, CA
5. Jordan Poland, OL, Rancho Santa Fe, CA
6. Brandon Dawkins, QB, Oxnard, CA
7. Antonio Smothers, LB, Chicago, IL*
8. Jonathan Haden, RB, Upper Marlboro, MD
9. Marcus Griffin, DL, Seattle, WA
10. Jerod Cody, DE, Las Vegas, NV*

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Pac-12	National
Scoring	33.5 ppg	6	36
Rushing	264.9 ypg	2	11
Passing	193.5 ypg	12	97
Total	458.5 ypg	4	31
Defense	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
Scoring	24.2 ppg	6	39
Rushing	167.8 ypg	7	69
Passing	233.2 ypg	5	70
Total	401.1 ypg	8	62
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
+4	+0.3	6	39

OFFENSE In a sense, it is Groundhog Day at Arizona. After getting remarkable production from one-year quarterback starters Matt Scott in 2012 and B.J. Denker in 2013, coach Rich Rodriguez will open with his third QB in three years. Next in line is USC washout Jesse Scroggins, who is in his fifth year of college football. Redshirt freshman Anu Solomon, a four-time state champion from Las Vegas, challenged strongly for the No. 1 job in spring camp.

Two-time consensus All-America tailback Ka'Deem Carey — who became Arizona's first Pac-12 Offensive Player of the Year — left for the NFL after his junior season. A mix of four young players, including Zach Green, Nick Wilson, Jonathan Haden and Pierre Cormier — none with a college carry — could share the tailback job.

Six players are in the receiving rotation, all of them starter-quality. Senior Austin Hill, who missed 2013 after undergoing knee surgery, caught 81 passes a year earlier and is the dean of the group. DaVonte' Neal, a transfer from Notre Dame and two-time Arizona Gatorade Player of the Year, has game-changing explosiveness and will be difficult to keep off the field. Cayleb Jones, a transfer from Texas, who has the ability to be a No. 1 receiver.

Four offensive line starters return, including three-year starting tackles Mickey Baucus and Fabbians Ebbele. Both have been durable and effective in Rodriguez's fast-paced scheme.

STAT CORNER

5.8

Average yards to go on third down for the Arizona offense in 2013, fourth-lowest in the nation.

DEFENSE The defensive line is troublesome and thin. Sophomore Dwight Melvin, with no career starts and little playing time, is the leading candidate to open at nose guard. The defensive ends are capable, if not standouts. Seniors Dan Pettinato and Reggie Gilbert aren't skilled pass-rushers, which is what Arizona's defense lacks. The Wildcats added LSU transfer Jordan Allen after spring practice. The former four-star recruit is an end but might be able to slide inside and play nose guard as well.

Sophomore linebacker Scooby Wright started 12 games as a true freshman and made 83 tackles, fourth-best on the club. He will now be a leader on the defense. The rest of the linebacking crew will need introductions. Sophomores DeAndre' Miller, Derrick Turituri and Jake Matthews are challenging for full-time jobs. Incoming freshman linebacker Jamardre Cobb is one of the school's top recruits.

Arizona cut its points allowed from 35 per game in Rodriguez's first year to 24 last year, and most of the secondary players partially responsible for that performance return. Safety Jared Tevis isn't blessed with NFL size and speed, but he's an effective college player. Three-year starting cornerback Jonathan McKnight is a possible all-conference back, and hybrid linebacker/safety Tra'Mayne Bondurant will be starting for the fourth season. Arizona won't be shy to use its bench.

SPECIALISTS Junior punter Drew Riggleman averaged 40.1 yards in his first year as a starter, but incoming kicker Josh Pollack is expected to challenge for the job immediately. The placekicking job is a mystery. Junior Casey Skowron ended spring drills on top of the depth chart, but he hasn't kicked in a Pac-12 game. The return game, which has been a problem for Arizona in the Rodriguez years, should improve significantly.

FINAL ANALYSIS Rodriguez has twin 8–5 seasons in two years at Arizona, and he has more Pac-12-ready players on the roster for Year 3. The uncertainty at quarterback hovers over the entire operation, but the strengths at receiver and on the offensive line create an optimistic feeling about another winning season. The Wildcats are faster and deeper on defense. The schedule — four winnable games to open the season — sets up favorably.

AUSTIN HILL

Peter Brouillet

THE QUOTE

"They've got a ton of quarterbacks — I think they have six or seven. I have no idea who the guy will be, which can be a good or bad thing."

— An opposing Pac-12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	29	Austin Hill (Sr.)	**10**	**Samajie Grant (So.)**
WR	19	DaVonte' Neal (So.)	5	Trey Griffey (So.)
WR	**6**	**Nate Phillips (So.)**	1	Cayleb Jones (So.)
LT	**68**	**Mickey Baucus (Sr.)**	65	Zach Hemmila (So.)
LG	**61**	**Cayman Bundage (Jr.)**	74	Jacob Arzouman (Jr.)
C	**56**	**Steve Gurrola (Sr.)**	66	Carter Wood (Jr.)
RG	78	Jacob Alsadek (Fr.)	77	Lene Maiava (Jr.)
RT	**73**	**Fabbians Ebbele (Sr.)**	64	Faitele Faafoi (Jr.)
TE		Trevor Wood (Fr.)	17	Josh Kern (So.)
QB	15	Jesse Scroggins (Sr.)	12	Anu Solomon (Fr.)
RB	4	Pierre Cormier (Fr.)	34	Zach Green (Fr.)

DEFENSE (6)

DE	**84**	**Reggie Gilbert (Sr.)**		Jordan Allen (Sr.)
NG	97	Dwight Melvin (So.)	75	Kirifi Taula (Sr.)
DE	90	Dan Pettinato (Sr.)		Aiulua Fanene (So.)
OLB	32	DeAndre' Miller (So.)		Jamardre Cobb (Fr.)
ILB	**33**	**Scooby Wright (So.)**	53	Sir Thomas Jackson (Jr.)
ILB	45	Derrick Turituri (So.)	19	Hank Hobson (Sr.)
SPUR	**21**	**Tra'Mayne Bondurant (Sr.)**	4	Antonio Smothers (Jr.)
CB	**6**	**Jonathan McKnight (Sr.)**		Cam Denson (Fr.)
CB	13	Devin Holiday (So.)	8	Patrick Glover (Jr.)
FS	**26**	**Jourdon Grandon (Sr.)**	28	Anthony Lopez (Sr.)
SS	**38**	**Jared Tevis (Sr.)**	11	William Parks (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	41	Casey Skowron (Jr.)	KR	19	DaVonte' Neal (So.)
P	39	Drew Riggleman (Jr.)	PR	19	DaVonte' Neal (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: None
Rushing: Jared Baker, 27 att., 127 yds., 0 TDs
Receiving: Nate Phillips, 51 rec., 696 yds., 7 TDs
Tackles: Jared Tevis, 83; Scooby Wright, 83
Sacks: Reggie Gilbert, 4
Interceptions: Tra'Mayne Bondurant, 4

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

ARIZONA STATE SUN DEVILS

NATIONAL FORECAST **16**
PAC-12 SOUTH PREDICTION **3**

Head Coach: Todd Graham
Record at School: 18-9 (2 years)
Career Record: 67-38 (8 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Mike Norvell
Co-Defensive Coordinators: Todd Graham, Keith Patterson
Tempe, AZ
Sun Devil Stadium (66,000)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 9-3, 6-3 (PAC-12)

August	
28	Weber State
September	
6	at New Mexico
13	at Colorado
25	UCLA
October	
4	at USC
18	Stanford
25	at Washington
November	
1	Utah
8	Notre Dame
15	at Oregon State
22	Washington State
28	at Arizona

2013 RESULTS (10-4, 8-1)

Sept. 5	Sacramento State	W	55–0
Sept. 14	Wisconsin	W	32–30
Sept. 21	at Stanford	L	28–42
Sept. 28	USC	W	62–41
Oct. 5	vs. Notre Dame %	L	34–37
Oct. 12	Colorado	W	54–13
Oct. 19	Washington	W	53–24
Oct. 31	at Washington State	W	55–21
Nov. 9	at Utah	W	20–19
Nov. 16	Oregon State	W	30–17
Nov. 23	at UCLA	W	38–33
Nov. 30	Arizona	W	58–21
Dec. 7	Stanford &	L	14–38
Dec. 30	vs. Texas Tech #	L	23–37

%Arlington &Pac-12 Championship #Holiday Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. D.J. Calhoun, LB, El Cerrito, CA
2. Tyler Whiley, WR, Scottsdale, AZ
3. Jalen Harvey, WR, El Cerrito, CA
4. Eric Lauderdale, WR, Fayetteville, GA*
5. Manny Wilkins, QB, Novato, CA
6. Connor Humphreys, DE, Portland, OR
7. Tashon Smallwood, DT, Fresno, CA
8. Dalvon Stuckey, DT, DeFuniak Springs, FL*
9. Edmond Boateng, DE, Wesley Chapel, FL
10. Demario Richard, RB, Palmdale, CA

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Pac-12	National
Scoring	39.7 ppg	2	10
Rushing	191.4 ypg	6	40
Passing	265.9 ypg	5	32
Total	457.3 ypg	5	32
Defense	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
Scoring	26.6 ppg	7	63
Rushing	137.6 ypg	4	26
Passing	234.7 ypg	6	71
Total	372.4 ypg	4	42
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
+15	+1.1	1	7

OFFENSE The Sun Devils should have one of the best offenses in the Pac-12. Start with senior quarterback Taylor Kelly, who had 37 total touchdowns and a combined 4,243 yards from scrimmage (3,635 passing, 608 rushing) last season. Kelly doesn't have the strongest arm, but he's adept at throwing on the run and escaping the rush. His challenge this year is to play as well against the Pac-12's top teams as he does some of the conference's lesser foes.

ASU's running game will survive the loss of leading rusher Marion Grice because junior D.J. Foster is ready to assume a full-time role carrying the ball. Foster isn't as strong as Grice between the tackles, but he's more explosive. He's also a terrific receiver and will be a big weapon for Kelly out of the backfield.

Foster and Kelly will be aided by an offensive line that should be able to weather the loss of two starters, including all-conference left tackle Evan Finkenberg. The addition of guard Christian Westerman, a transfer from Auburn, will allow Jamil Douglas to move from guard to left tackle.

If there's a question mark it's the wide receiving corps. Jaelen Strong is one of the best receivers in the country, a 6'3", 212-pound Larry Fitzgerald clone who caught 75 passes for 1,122 yards and seven touchdowns last season. But there's little returning depth behind Strong, which makes it imperative that junior college transfer Eric Lauderdale can produce immediately.

STAT CORNER

33.7

Arizona State's average starting field position, fourth in the country. Three-and-outs and special teams were good tools.

DEFENSE It's highly unlikely that any team in the country has more holes to fill on defense than ASU, which lost nine starters on that side of the ball, including both of its starting cornerbacks, sack leader Carl Bradford and two-time Pac-12 Defensive Player of the Year defensive tackle Will Sutton.

The Sun Devils will have no choice but to rely on a mix of junior college recruits — particularly along the defensive line — freshmen and untested sophomores. The inexperience could be a factor early in the season; ASU plays UCLA, USC, Stanford and Washington in a one-month span starting Sept. 25.

Along the front, the Sun Devils have to hope that transfers Edmond Boateng and Dalvon Stuckey can step in and play right away. There's simply not a lot of depth at the position. There are similar concerns at linebacker. True freshman D.J. Calhoun looked great in spring ball, but is he ready for Pac-12 competition? And the Sun Devils haven't been able to find a ready-made replacement at Devil linebacker for Bradford. Unless that player steps up in the fall, ASU's pass rush will be compromised.

The secondary? Well, the only sure thing is safety Damarious Randall. ASU is replacing both of its corners for the first time in four years. The Sun Devils had 21 interceptions last season; the returning players have a total of four.

SPECIALISTS The Sun Devils' kicking game should be solid with punter Matt Haack and placekicker Zane Gonzalez — 25-of-30 last year — but the return and coverage teams were problems and are points of emphasis this season for coach Todd Graham. ASU needs to find a home-run returner and make better use of its athleticism in kickoff and punt coverage.

FINAL ANALYSIS Graham talks big — and so far has backed up his words. But given the massive remake of the defense, it's hard to imagine the Sun Devils winning a second straight Pac-12 South title. ASU will attack offensively and score a lot of points, but it might also be on the wrong end of 45–42 games. ASU has to play at USC, Washington, Oregon State and arch-rival Arizona and also has a difficult non-conference game against Notre Dame in early November. A nine-win season would deserve applause.

TAYLOR KELLY

THE QUOTE

"The quarterback, Taylor Kelly, is really underrated. He's not as flashy as the other guys, but he's really good. He just gets things done."

— An opposing Pac-12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	**21**	**Jaelen Strong (Jr.)**	19	Ellis Jefferson (Fr.)
WR		Eric Lauderdale (Jr.)	81	Gary Chambers (Jr.)
WR	89	Frederick Gammage (So.)	15	Ronald Lewis (Fr.)
LT	**74**	**Jamil Douglas (Sr.)**	57	Evan Goodman (So.)
LG	55	Christian Westerman (Jr.)	77	Stephon McCray (So.)
C	50	Nick Kelly (Jr.)	77	Stephon McCray (So.)
RG	**73**	**Vi Teofilo (Jr.)**	56	Devin Goodman (Jr.)
RT	**54**	**Tyler Sulka (Sr.)**	75	William McGehee (Jr.)
TE	12	De'Marieya Nelson (Sr.)	88	Grant Martinez (Fr.)
QB	**10**	**Taylor Kelly (Sr.)**	2	Mike Bercovici (Jr.)
RB	**8**	**D.J. Foster (Jr.)**	25	Deantre Lewis (Sr.)

DEFENSE (2)

DE	1	Marcus Hardison (Sr.)	97	Edmond Boateng (So.)
NT	92	Jaxon Hood (Jr.)	98	Mo Latu (Jr.)
DE		Dalvon Stuckey (Jr.)	94	Demetrius Cherry (Jr.)
OLB	34	Eriquel Florence (Jr.)	6	Chans Cox (Fr.)
ILB	28	Viliami Moeakiola (So.)	20	Marcus Washington (Sr.)
ILB	**58**	**Salamo Fiso (So.)**	44	Alani Latu (Fr.)
OLB	4	D.J. Calhoun (Fr.)	32	Antonio Longino (Jr.)
CB	13	Rashad Wadood (Jr.)	39	William Earley (Fr.)
CB	17	Lloyd Carrington (Jr.)	15	Solomon Means (Jr.)
SS	10	Marcus Ball (Fr.)	38	Jordan Simone (Jr.)
FS	**3**	**Damarious Randall (Sr.)**	18	James Johnson (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	5	Zane Gonzalez (So.)	**KR**	7	Kyle Middlebrooks (Sr.)
P	26	Matt Haack (So.)	**PR**	7	Kyle Middlebrooks (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Taylor Kelly, 484-302-3,635-12, 28 TDs
Rushing: Taylor Kelly, 173 att., 608 yds., 9 TDs
Receiving: Jaelen Strong, 75 rec., 1,122 yds., 7 TDs
Tackles: Salamo Fiso, 71
Sacks: Salamo Fiso, 3
Interceptions: Damarious Randall, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Athlon Sports

COLORADO BUFFALOES

NATIONAL FORECAST 71
PAC-12 SOUTH PREDICTION 6

Head Coach: Mike MacIntyre
Record at School: 4-8 (1 year)
Career Record: 20-29 (4 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Brian Lindgren
Defensive Coordinator: Kent Baer
Boulder, CO
Folsom Field (53,613)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 4-8, 1-8 (PAC-12)

August	
29	vs. Colorado State #
September	
6	at Massachusetts
13	Arizona State
20	Hawaii
27	at California
October	
4	Oregon State
18	at USC
25	UCLA
November	
1	Washington
8	at Arizona
22	at Oregon
29	Utah

#Denver, CO

2013 RESULTS (4-8, 1-8)

Sept. 1	vs. Colorado State %	W	41-27
Sept. 7	Central Arkansas	W	38-24
Sept. 28	at Oregon State	L	17-44
Oct. 5	Oregon	L	16-57
Oct. 12	at Arizona State	L	13-54
Oct. 19	Charleston Southern	W	43-10
Oct. 26	Arizona	L	20-44
Nov. 2	at UCLA	L	23-45
Nov. 9	at Washington	L	7-59
Nov. 16	California	W	41-24
Nov. 23	USC	L	29-47
Nov. 30	at Utah	L	17-24

%Denver

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Shay Fields, WR, Bellflower, CA
2. Isaac Miller, OL, Longmont, CO
3. Cade Apsay, QB, Canyon Country, CA
4. Dylan Keeney, TE, Granite Bay, CA
5. Jase Franke, DT, Camarillo, CA
6. Grant Watanabe, LB, San Antonio, TX
7. Donovan Lee, ATH, West Hills, CA
8. Rick Gamboa, LB, Sylmar, CA
9. Eddy Lopez, DT, El Paso, TX
10. Evan White, DB, Aurora, CO

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Pac-12	National
Scoring	25.4 ppg	11	86
Rushing	120.8 ypg	10	108
Passing	249.1 ypg	8	47
Total	369.9 ypg	12	87
Defense	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
Scoring	38.3 ppg	11	112
Rushing	208.5 ypg	12	101
Passing	259.5 ypg	9	102
Total	468.0 ypg	11	106
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
-3	-0.3	9	79

OFFENSE Sophomore Sefo Liufau will be the opening-day starter at quarterback barring a dramatic drop-off in performance in fall camp. There is no other QB on the roster who has even taken a snap in a college game at the FBS level. Sophomore Jordan Gehrke will likely be the backup. Gehrke played well at the junior college level during the 2012 season. True freshman Cade Apsay will compete for playing time when he arrives in the summer, but he's likely ticketed for a redshirt season.

Christian Powell led the team in rushing the past two seasons and could do so again in his junior year, but he might have a hard time fighting off sophomore Michael Adkins II, who averaged more than five yards a carry and led the team with six rushing touchdowns last season. The Buffs averaged just 3.4 yards per carry and 120.8 yards per game on the ground last fall.

Junior wide receiver Nelson Spruce was second on the team in receiving last season after leading it in 2012. Redshirt freshman Bryce Bobo had a big spring and is the likely starter opposite Spruce, with senior D.D. Goodson, sophomore Devin Ross and speedy freshman Shay Fields likely to get opportunities in the slot. CU also should be improved at tight end, with sophomore Sean Irwin poised to move into a starting role.

The talent is there at the skill positions, but those players are only going to be as effective as the offensive line allows them to be. There could be as many as three new starters.

STAT CORNER

6.5

Average gain for Colorado opponents on first down, 104th in the country. The Buffaloes had trouble getting off the field.

DEFENSE The Buffs have struggled big time on defense since joining the Pac-12, but they have pieces in place for improvement.

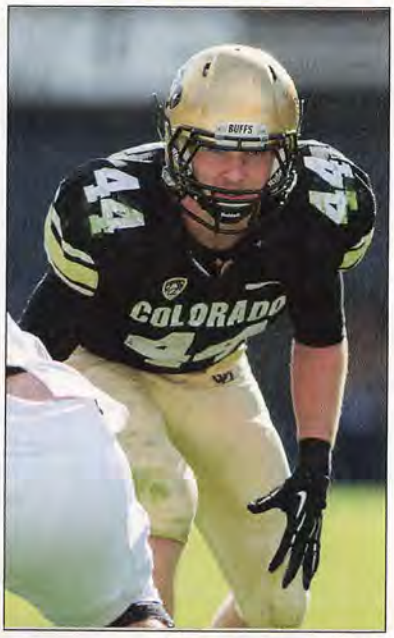
Tackle Josh Tupou, an all-conference-caliber player, will anchor the defensive line. The Buffs are young at end, especially if Samson Kafovalu isn't available (due to academics). If Kafovalu can't go, Jimmie Gilbert would be the most experienced end on the roster after playing 261 snaps as a true freshman last season.

Sophomore middle linebacker Addison Gillam, who led the team in tackles as a true freshman last season, will be joined by Woodson Greer and Kenneth Olugbode in the starting lineup, giving the team much more speed at linebacker than it has had in the recent past.

Second-year coach Mike MacIntyre returned to his roots by working with the cornerbacks during spring drills and may continue to do so during the season. His secondary is loaded with depth. Greg Henderson is the best corner on the team entering his senior season. That leaves potential starters Chidobe Awuzie, Kenneth Crawley and Ahkello Witherspoon fighting for two jobs — the other cornerback spot and the nickel back. The starting safeties should be senior Jered Bell and sophomore Tedric Thompson, but they have plenty of competition, too.

SPECIALISTS This can accurately be described as an area of strength. Punter Darragh O'Neill and placekicker Will Oliver are entering their senior seasons and will be four-year starters. O'Neill, who can punt with either foot, set a school record with 22 punts inside the 20-yard line last season. Oliver has been dependable throughout his career, though he hit a rough patch for a stretch last season.

FINAL ANALYSIS The depth and talent are improving in Boulder under MacIntyre. But the program is still in rebuilding mode. The Buffaloes have won a combined four Pac-12 games in their three seasons in the league, including one win in each of the past two years. Last season, the Buffs' average margin of defeat in their eight conference losses was 29 points. More wins would be nice, but simply being competitive on a consistent basis would show progress in the short term.



ADDISON GILLAM

THE QUOTE

"Very well-coached. It's a very different team from the year before. They seemed to be disjointed in 2012."

— An opposing Pac-12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	4	Bryce Bobo (Fr.)	1	Elijah Dunston (Fr.)
WR	**22**	**Nelson Spruce (Jr.)**		Shay Fields (Fr.)
WR	3	D.D. Goodson (Sr.)	2	Devin Ross (So.)
LT	76	Jeromy Irwin (So.)	72	Marc Mustoe (Jr.)
LG	**54**	**Kaiwi Crabb (Sr.)**		Sully Wiefels (Jr.)
C	74	Alex Kelley (So.)	79	Jonathan Huckins (Fr.)
RG	**52**	**Daniel Munyer (Sr.)**	64	Brad Cotner (Jr.)
RT	**77**	**Stephane Nembot (Jr.)**	71	Sam Kronshage (Fr.)
TE	81	Sean Irwin (So.)	**88**	**Kyle Slavin (Sr.)**
QB	**13**	**Sefo Liufau (So.)**	7	Jordan Gehrke (So.)
RB	**46**	**Christian Powell (Jr.)**	19	Michael Adkins (So.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	93	Samson Kafovalu (Jr.)	94	Tyler Henington (Jr.)
DT	**55**	**Josh Tupou (Jr.)**		Eddy Lopez (Fr.)
DT	**56**	**Juda Parker (Sr.)**	**57**	**Justin Solis (Jr.)**
DE	98	Jimmie Gilbert (So.)	95	Derek McCartney (Fr.)
WLB	31	Kenneth Olugbode (So.)	30	Ryan Severson (So.)
MLB	**44**	**Addison Gillam (So.)**	43	Brady Daigh (Sr.)
SLB	37	Woodson Greer (Sr.)	3	Deayshawn Rippy (So.)
CB	**20**	**Greg Henderson (Sr.)**	4	Chidobe Awuzie (So.)
CB	23	Ahkello Witherspoon (So.)	**2**	**Kenneth Crawley (Jr.)**
FS	**21**	**Jered Bell (Sr.)**	25	Ryan Moeller (Fr.)
SS	9	Tedric Thompson (So.)	41	Terrel Smith (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	28	Will Oliver (Sr.)	KR	30	Ryan Severson (So.)
P	8	Darragh O'Neill (Sr.)	PR	22	Nelson Spruce (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Sefo Liufau, 251-149-1,779-8, 12 TDs
Rushing: Christian Powell, 147 att., 562 yds., 3 TDs
Receiving: Nelson Spruce, 55 rec., 650 yds., 4 TDs
Tackles: Addison Gillam, 119
Sacks: Addison Gillam, 3; Samson Kafovalu, 3
Interceptions: Greg Henderson, 4

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Colorado Sports Information Department

UCLA BRUINS

NATIONAL FORECAST 7
PAC-12 SOUTH PREDICTION 1

Head Coach: Jim Mora
Record at School: 19-8 (2 years)
Career Record: 19-8 (2 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Noel Mazzone
Defensive Coordinator: Jeff Ulbrich
Los Angeles, CA
Rose Bowl (92,542)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 10-3, 7-2 (PAC-12)

August	
30	at Virginia
September	
6	Memphis
13	vs. Texas #
25	at Arizona State
October	
4	Utah
11	Oregon
18	at California
25	at Colorado
November	
1	Arizona
8	at Washington
22	USC
28	Stanford

#Arlington, TX

2013 RESULTS (10-3, 6-3)

Aug. 31	Nevada	W	58-20
Sept. 14	at Nebraska	W	41-21
Sept. 21	New Mexico State	W	59-13
Oct. 3	at Utah	W	34-27
Oct. 12	California	W	37-10
Oct. 19	at Stanford	L	10-24
Oct. 26	at Oregon	L	14-42
Nov. 2	Colorado	W	45-23
Nov. 9	at Arizona	W	31-26
Nov. 15	Washington	W	41-31
Nov. 23	Arizona State	L	33-38
Nov. 30	at USC	W	35-14
Dec. 31	vs. Virginia Tech #	W	42-12

#Sun Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Zach Whitley, LB, Galena Park, TX
2. Jaleel Wadood, ATH, Lakewood, CA
3. Adarius Pickett, DB, El Cerrito, CA
4. Austin Roberts, WR, Carmel, IN
5. Kenny Young, LB, New Orleans, LA
6. Nathan Starks, RB, Englewood, CO
7. Ainuu Taua, DT, Lompoc, CA
8. Matt Dickerson, DE, San Mateo, CA
9. Dwight Williams, LB, Gardena, CA
10. Mossi Johnson, WR, Los Angeles, CA

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Pac-12	National
Scoring	36.9 ppg	4	20
Rushing	196.6 ypg	5	35
Passing	251.8 ypg	7	43
Total	448.5 ypg	7	38
Defense	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
Scoring	23.2 ppg	5	35
Rushing	169.5 ypg	8	71
Passing	217.6 ypg	3	40
Total	387.1 ypg	5	54
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
+10	+0.8	2	17

OFFENSE At a press conference in January announcing his intention to stay at UCLA for his redshirt junior season, quarterback Brett Hundley glowed about what could be in 2014, when the Bruins return plenty of talent from an offense that showed flashes of dominance during last year's 10-win campaign. "

"With what's coming in and what we have already," Hundley said, "I think all the stars are really aligned."

That starts on offense, where Hundley will have no shortage of weapons at his disposal. Last year's leading receiver Shaq Evans is off to the NFL, but a slew of young talent, led by junior Devin Lucien and sophomore Thomas Duarte, looks more than capable of shouldering the load. The run game will be a question mark, after Hundley led the team in rushing yards (748) and touchdowns (11). Jordon James and Paul Perkins are expected to reprise their roles at the top of UCLA's committee.

Inconsistency and injuries on the offensive line have hampered the Bruins before, but even without guard Xavier Su'a-Filo, UCLA's offensive front looks stronger than it has in the past.

DEFENSE Losing a freakishly athletic pass-rusher like Anthony Barr, who had 23 sacks in the last two seasons, will certainly hurt a defense that surpassed expectations in 2013. But after spending last season developing a lot of its young talent, UCLA's defense should actually be better as a whole.

Sophomore linebacker Myles Jack — who became the first player in history to be named both Pac-12 Offensive and Defensive Freshman of the Year — is already one of the best young defenders in the nation, after finishing with 75 tackles and two interceptions as a freshman. He'll have to take a step forward, especially in his pass rush, but all signs point toward a breakout season.

Sophomore nose tackle Kenny Clark could be this year's star-in-the-making on defense, as he's set to anchor a defensive line chock-full of talent. The real surprise, though, is likely to come in the secondary, where the Bruins were much better than expected last season. After finishing third in pass defense in the Pac-12, UCLA's defensive backs look even stronger this season, led by cornerback Fabian Moreau, who UCLA coach Jim Mora says looks like a future first-round pick.

SPECIALISTS Expectations upon his arrival in Westwood were that placekicker Ka'imi Fairbairn would join a long line of elite UCLA kickers. That goal was derailed for a bit by his inconsistency from 40-plus yards the last two seasons. He had just four field goals in the Bruins' final seven games in 2013. But early returns this season are good on Fairbairn, after he looked very consistent during the spring. Punter Sean Covington and his big leg are also back, after averaging 41.9 yards per punt as a freshman.

FINAL ANALYSIS When Mora spurned coaching offers from his alma mater, Washington, and Texas to return to UCLA, he did so with an understanding that the cupboard would be full of talent for years to come in Westwood. This season, the Bruins should start to see those returns in full force, with a Heisman Trophy candidate returning under center and a nice collection of talent on both sides of the ball.

In 2013, UCLA reached double digits in wins for the first time in eight years, but the expectations will undoubtedly be higher this time around. For the first time in a long time, UCLA's focus has turned toward potentially competing for a national championship. First, of course, it'll have to navigate the increasingly strong Pac-12 — a league the Bruins haven't won since 1998. With 14 starters back, though, things are certainly trending upward in Los Angeles.

STAT CORNER

+6.5

UCLA's field position margin in 2013, fifth in the country. The Bruins limited big plays and won most special teams battles.

BRETT HUNDLEY

THE QUOTE

"They make you finish drives, and they can turn you over, but if you're sound you can get yards and score on them."

— *An opposing Pac-12 assistant coach*

OFFENSE (7)

WR	15	Devin Lucien (Jr.)	10	Kenny Walker (So.)
WR	18	Thomas Duarte (So.)	14	Mossi Johnson (Fr.)
WR	**9**	**Jordan Payton (Jr.)**	82	Eldridge Massington (Fr.)
WR	**7**	**Devin Fuller (Jr.)**	8	Jalen Ortiz (So.)
LT	**74**	**Caleb Benenoch (So.)**	76	Kenny Lacy (Fr.)
LG	78	Malcolm Bunche (Sr.)	69	Najee Toran (Fr.)
C	**54**	**Jake Brendel (Jr.)**	52	Scott Quessenberry (So.)
RG	**51**	**Alex Redmond (So.)**	52	Scott Quessenberry (So.)
RT	71	Poasi Moala (So.)	**70**	**Simon Goines (Jr.)**
QB	**17**	**Brett Hundley (Jr.)**	2	Asiantii Woulard (Fr.)
RB	6	Jordon James (Sr.)	24	Paul Perkins (So.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	94	Owa Odighizuwa (Sr.)	93	Kylie Fitts (So.)
NT	97	Kenny Clark (So.)	50	Kevin McReynolds (Jr.)
DE	**47**	**Eddie Vanderdoes (So.)**	**90**	**Ellis McCarthy (Jr.)**
OLB	**30**	**Myles Jack (So.)**	19	Jayon Brown (So.)
ILB	**6**	**Eric Kendricks (Sr.)**		Kenny Young (Fr.)
ILB	44	Isaako Savaiinaea (So.)	41	Zach Whitley (Fr.)
OLB	46	Kenny Orjioke (Jr.)	58	Deon Hollins (So.)
CB	**10**	**Fabian Moreau (Jr.)**	9	Marcus Rios (So.)
CB	**23**	**Anthony Jefferson (Sr.)**	15	Priest Willis (So.)
S	21	Tahaan Goodman (So.)	22	Tyler Foreman (Fr.)
S	**3**	**Randall Goforth (Jr.)**	32	Ron Robinson (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	15	Ka'imi Fairbairn (Jr.)	**KR**	24	Ishmael Adams (Jr.)
P	27	Sean Covington (So.)	**PR**	24	Ishmael Adams (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Brett Hundley, 371-248-3,071-9, 24 TDs
Rushing: Brett Hundley, 160 att., 748 yds., 11 TDs
Receiving: Devin Fuller, 43 rec., 471 yds., 4 TDs
Tackles: Eric Kendricks, 106
Sacks: 3 players tied with 2
Interceptions: Ishmael Adams, 4

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Peter Brouillet

USC TROJANS

NATIONAL FORECAST **14**
PAC-12 SOUTH PREDICTION **2**

Head Coach: Steve Sarkisian
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: 34-29 (5 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Clay Helton
Defensive Coordinator: Justin Wilcox
Los Angeles, CA
Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum (93,607)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 9-3, 6-3 (PAC-12)

August	
30	Fresno State
September	
6	at Stanford
13	at Boston College
27	Oregon State
October	
4	Arizona State
11	at Arizona
18	Colorado
25	at Utah
November	
1	at Washington State
13	California
22	at UCLA
29	Notre Dame

2013 RESULTS (10-4, 6-3)

Aug. 29	at Hawaii	W	30–13
Sept. 7	Washington State	L	7–10
Sept. 14	Boston College	W	35–7
Sept. 21	Utah State	W	17–14
Sept. 28	at Arizona State	L	41–62
Oct. 10	Arizona	W	38–31
Oct. 19	at Notre Dame	L	10–14
Oct. 26	Utah	W	19–3
Nov. 1	at Oregon State	W	31–14
Nov. 9	at California	W	62–28
Nov. 16	Stanford	W	20–17
Nov. 23	at Colorado	W	47–29
Nov. 30	UCLA	L	14–35
Dec. 21	vs. Fresno State #	W	45–20

#Las Vegas Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Adoree' Jackson, ATH, Lawndale, CA
2. JuJu Smith, ATH, Signal Hill, CA
3. Damien Mama, OL, Bellflower, CA
4. Viane Talamaivao, OL, Moreno Valley, CA
5. Bryce Dixon, TE, Oxnard, CA
6. Toa Lobendahn, OL, La Habra, CA
7. Jonathan Lockett, CB, Bellflower, CA
8. Rahshead Johnson, WR, Compton, CA
9. Chris Brown, OL, Los Angeles, CA
10. Claude Pelon, DL, Orlando, FL*

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Pac-12	National
Scoring	29.7 ppg	9	60
Rushing	172.8 ypg	7	59
Passing	227.1 ypg	10	70
Total	399.9 ypg	10	72
Defense	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
Scoring	21.2 ppg	3	16
Rushing	120.6 ypg	2	15
Passing	214.6 ypg	2	32
Total	335.2 ypg	1	13
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
+5	+0.4	5	36

OFFENSE New Trojans coach Steve Sarkisian brings the up-tempo, no-huddle offense to USC, where the old, pro-style, I-formation set wasn't just merely a staple — it was almost a religion. It will take Trojans boosters a while to adjust to the change, but the weapons are there to make it interesting. Quarterback Cody Kessler is coming off a solid first year as a starter, capped off by an MVP performance in the Las Vegas Bowl.

Javorius "Buck" Allen was the big surprise of 2014 at tailback, and wide receiver Nelson Agholor has the talent to follow in the cleat marks of All-Americans Robert Woods and the sure-to-be-missed Marqise Lee. Randall Telfer, a gifted tight end, is likely to be utilized much more in Sarkisian's new scheme.

The key will be an offensive line that remains a work in progress. Three important contributors have departed, and several potential starters were held out of spring practice with injuries, leaving the situation slightly muddled heading into fall camp. Max Tuerk, the team's most versatile linemen, will be asked to replace All-Pac-12 center Marcus Martin.

Clay Helton is the offensive coordinator, but Sarkisian, like his controversial predecessor Lane Kiffin, plans to call the plays.

DEFENSE Justin Wilcox, the new defensive coordinator, will run out of a 3-4 base defense, as opposed to last year's 5-2. But because there will be multiple fronts, it will occasionally look the same. The trick will be to play as effectively as last year's defense, which was often the strength of the team. It helps that All-American Leonard Williams returns to lead a defensive line that could be among the finest in the country. Aggressive Antwaun Woods was the team's most active defensive player in spring practice at nose tackle. He will be flanked by Williams and either Texas Tech transfer Delvon Simmons or junior college transfer Claude Pelon.

Hayes Pullard, the leading tackler in 2013, will be a stabilizer at one inside linebacker, and the secondary is deeper and more experienced than the one that began the season a year ago. Look for sophomore safeties Su'a Cravens and Leon McQuay III to be future stars.

STAT CORNER

7.8

Average yards to go on third down for the USC offense last season, ranking 117th in the nation in the category.

SPECIALISTS Punter Kris Albarado, who had a good year, and placekicker Andre Heidari, who was somewhat erratic, both return. Agholor is one of the country's more exciting return specialists. He averaged 19.1 yards per return and scored two touchdowns on punts last season.

FINAL ANALYSIS Sarkisian is ecstatic to be back at talent-rich USC, where he served as an assistant in the Pete Carroll glory years. But his hiring drew a mixed reaction among Trojans boosters. Many felt Ed Orgeron, who turned the season around as interim coach after Kiffin was fired, should have been offered the job. Others thought Boise State's highly successful Chris Petersen, who succeeded Sarkisian at Washington, would have been a stronger choice. It is up to Sarkisian to silence the doubters.

He has more than enough good players to do it, but much will depend on an uncertain offensive line and his ability to overcome the final season of NCAA sanctions that limit him to a 75-man roster. The schedule is generally favorable, although that shaky offensive front will receive a severe early test in the season's second week at Stanford, and after two consecutive losses to Jim Mora-coached UCLA, the Trojans must travel to play the cross-town rival Bruins in the Rose Bowl.

A confident Sarkisian is talking titles already, but it might behoove him to simply match last year's 10-victory season. Anything less and the pressure will be turned up considerably at USC.

NELSON AGHOLOR

Peter Brouillet

THE QUOTE

"The safeties will come down and hit you but are maybe overly aggressive. I wasn't impressed with the corners."

— An opposing Pac-12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	**15**	**Nelson Agholor (Jr.)**	85	Victor Blackwell (Jr.)
WR	84	Darreus Rogers (So.)	8	George Farmer (Jr.)
LT	**72**	**Chad Wheeler (So.)**	56	Jordan Austin (Fr.)
LG	**70**	**Aundrey Walker (Sr.)**	55	Toa Lobendahn (Fr.)
C	**75**	**Max Tuerk (Jr.)**	63	Giovanni Di Poalo (Sr.)
RG	62	Khaliel Rodgers (Fr.)	68	Jordan Simmons (So.)
RT	73	Zach Banner (So.)	76	Nathan Guertler (Sr.)
TE	**82**	**Randall Telfer (Sr.)**	88	Jalen Cope-Fitzpatrick (Jr.)
QB	**6**	**Cody Kessler (Jr.)**	4	Max Browne (Fr.)
FB	31	Soma Vainuku (Jr.)	38	Jahleel Pinner (Jr.)
RB	37	Javorius Allen (Jr.)	23	Tre Madden (Jr.)

DEFENSE (8)

DE	**94**	**Leonard Williams (Jr.)**	93	Greg Townsend Jr. (Jr.)
NT	99	Antwaun Woods (Jr.)	95	Kenny Bigelow (Fr.)
DE	52	Delvon Simmons (Jr.)	90	Claude Pelon (Jr.)
OLB	40	Jabari Ruffin (So.)	18	Quinton Powell (So.)
ILB	**10**	**Hayes Pullard (Sr.)**	19	Michael Hutchings (So.)
ILB	**56**	**Anthony Sarao (Jr.)**	**55**	**Lamar Dawson (Sr.)**
OLB	47	Scott Starr (So.)	**58**	**J.R. Tavai (Sr.)**
CB	**6**	**Josh Shaw (Sr.)**	16	Anthony Brown (Sr.)
CB	**13**	**Kevon Seymour (Jr.)**	29	Chris Hawkins (Fr.)
SS	**21**	**Su'a Cravens (So.)**	27	Gerald Bowman (Sr.)
FS	22	Leon McQuay III (So.)	6	Josh Shaw (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	48	Andre Heidari (Sr.)	**KR**	Adoree' Jackson (Fr.)
P	35	Kris Albarado (Jr.)	**PR** 15	Nelson Agholor (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Cody Kessler, 361-236-2,968-7, 20 TDs
Rushing: Javorius Allen, 135 att., 785 yds., 14 TDs
Receiving: Nelson Agholor, 56 rec., 918 yds., 6 TDs
Tackles: Hayes Pullard, 94
Sacks: Leonard Williams, 6.0
Interceptions: Su'a Cravens, 4; Josh Shaw, 4

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

UTAH UTES

NATIONAL FORECAST **54**
PAC-12 SOUTH PREDICTION **5**

Head Coach: Kyle Whittingham
Record at School: 76-39 (9 years)
Career Record: 76-39 (9 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Dave Christensen
Defensive Coordinator: Kalani Sitake
Salt Lake City, UT
Rice-Eccles Stadium (45,017)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 6-6, 4-5 (PAC-12)

August	
28	Idaho State
September	
6	Fresno State
20	at Michigan
27	Washington State
October	
4	at UCLA
16	at Oregon State
25	USC
November	
1	at Arizona State
8	Oregon
15	at Stanford
22	Arizona
29	at Colorado

2013 RESULTS (5-7, 2-7)

Aug. 29	Utah State		W	30–26
Sept. 7	Weber State		W	70–7
Sept. 14	Oregon State	(ot)	L	48–51
Sept. 21	at BYU		W	20–13
Oct. 3	UCLA		L	27–34
Oct. 12	Stanford		W	27–21
Oct. 19	at Arizona		L	24–35
Oct. 26	at USC		L	3–19
Nov. 9	Arizona State		L	19–20
Nov. 16	at Oregon		L	21–44
Nov. 23	at Washington State		L	37–49
Nov. 30	Colorado		W	24–17

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Jackson Barton, OL, Salt Lake City, UT
2. Alani Havili-Katoa, DT, Tooele, UT
3. Andrew Godfrey, DB, Hollywood, FL
4. Devontae Booker, RB, Sacramento, CA
5. Raelon Singleton, WR, Crosby, TX
6. Kaelin Clay, WR, Long Beach, CA
7. Marcus Williams, DB, Corona, CA
8. Kenric Young, WR, Gainesville, FL
9. Tevin Carter, DB, Los Angeles, CA
10. Monte Seabrook, DB, Newberry, FL

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Pac-12	National
Scoring	29.2 ppg	10	66
Rushing	160.3 ypg	8	71
Passing	236.3 ypg	9	60
Total	396.6 ypg	11	76
Defense	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
Scoring	28.0 ppg	8	72
Rushing	130.3 ypg	3	20
Passing	267.3 ypg	10	109
Total	397.7 ypg	7	60
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Pac-12**	**National**
-10	-0.8	11	112

OFFENSE Utah's best moment of the 2013 season also became the start of a downward spiral that created a complicated quarterbacking situation in 2014. While leading the Utes past Stanford, quarterback Travis Wilson injured his hand. He struggled in the next three games, then was diagnosed with a concussion. Further tests revealed a pre-existing condition that sidelined him for Utah's final three games. Wilson was cleared to participate in spring drills, without being tackled, and reclaimed his No. 1 position. He'll be re-evaluated in July.

Regardless of Wilson's status, Oklahoma transfer Kendal Thompson will compete for the starting job. He's listed No. 2, prior to arriving on campus as a graduate student with two years of eligibility remaining. "Finding out about Kendal will be job one," coach Kyle Whittingham says.

The Utes also are adjusting to new offensive coordinator Dave Christensen's fast-paced scheme. The spread offense is similar to what the Utes have used, but the tempo is "drastically different," Christensen says.

Leading rusher Bubba Poole returns, but the Utes need help at receiver to complement the dynamic Dres Anderson. Much is expected from Kenneth Scott, who caught 32 passes in 2012 before being injured in last season's opener, and Kaelin Clay, who will have one season to play as a junior college transfer.

Utah's offensive linemen were asked to lose weight to thrive in the up-tempo offense, and left tackle Jeremiah Poutasi has responded well.

STAT CORNER

6.4

Average yards gained on first down by the Utes' offense in 2013, 34th in the country. Second and third down were more of an issue.

DEFENSE Utah will miss Trevor Reilly, a versatile athlete who played end and linebacker in various alignments and led the team with 8.5 sacks as a senior. Ute defensive coordinator Kalani Sitake hopes senior Nate Orchard can fill Reilly's void as a disruptive lineman who also can move around in the scheme.

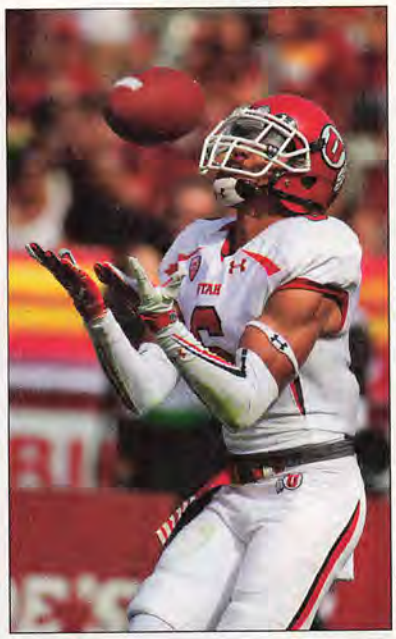
Utah appeared loaded at linebacker in their 4-3 scheme until Jacoby Hale and Gionni Paul sustained significant injuries during spring drills. Hale recorded 6.5 sacks last season, helping the Utes lead the Pac-12 with 3.25 sacks per game, and Paul was making a great impression as a transfer from Miami. Each is expected to become available at some point this season, but for now, Uaea Masina is listed as the starter at one position and as the backup at another spot. Orchard may be asked to spend more time at linebacker.

The Utes were tied for last in the country with only three interceptions in 2013, and they hope Brian Blechen's return at strong safety will make an impact. Blechen, who has eight interceptions in 35 career games, missed last season with tendinitis in his knee. Eric Rowe is a returning starter at free safety, but Sitake hopes Tevin Carter establishes himself at that position, enabling Rowe to move to cornerback.

SPECIALISTS Andy Phillips became a big story as a former international ski racer who tried out for the team and earned the place-kicking job as a freshman at age 24. Phillips made three field goals in his first football game at any level and finished 17-of-20 for the season, including a 51-yarder against Arizona State. Tom Hackett excelled as a short-punting specialist in 2012 and earned the full-time job in 2013, when he averaged 43.4 yards and the Utes led the Pac-12 in net punting.

FINAL ANALYSIS Whittingham believes the Utes are improving their talent level and depth in their fourth season of Pac-12 membership. They were competitive in every conference game in 2013, including an upset of eventual champion Stanford, but the Utes need to double last season's total of two conference wins for 2014 to be judged as any kind of success.

Peter Brouillet



DRES ANDERSON

THE QUOTE

"When they have lock-down corners, they are really good. The last few years they haven't had the same caliber of cornerback."

— An opposing Pac-12 assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	6	**Dres Anderson (Sr.)**	16	Geoffrey Norwood (Sr.)
WR	2	Kenneth Scott (Jr.)	15	Dominique Hatfield (So.)
WR	10	Delshawn McClellon (So.)		Kaelin Clay (Sr.)
LT	73	**Jeremiah Poutasi (Jr.)**	72	Andrew Albers (Jr.)
LG	59	**Junior Salt (Sr.)**	55	Hiva Lutui (So.)
C	60	**Siaosi Aiono (Jr.)**	75	Nick Nowakowski (So.)
RG	74	Salesi Uhatafe (Fr.)	77	Marc Pouvave (Sr.)
RT	54	Isaac Asiata (So.)	68	J.J. Dielman (So.)
TE	80	Westlee Tonga (Sr.)	87	Siale Fakailoatonga (So.)
QB	7	**Travis Wilson (Jr.)**		Kendal Thompson (Jr.)
RB	34	**Bubba Poole (Jr.)**	27	Devontae Booker (Jr.)

DEFENSE (5)

LE	8	**Nate Orchard (Sr.)**	50	Pita Taumoepenu (So.)
DT	98	Viliseni Fauonuku (Jr.)	90	Stevie Tu'ikolovatu (So.)
DT	57	Sese Ianu (Sr.)	45	Filipo Mokofisi (Fr.)
RE	49	Hunter Dimick (So.)	94	Jason Fanaika (Jr.)
SLB	43	Uaea Masina (So.)	4	Brian Blechen (Sr.)
MLB	53	**Jason Whittingham (Jr.)**	42	Tanner Larsen (Fr.)
RLB	41	**Jared Norris (Jr.)**	43	Uaea Masina (So.)
CB	11	**Davion Orphey (Sr.)**	18	Eric Rowe (Sr.)
CB	29	Reginald Porter (So.)	12	Justin Thomas (So.)
SS	4	Brian Blechen (Sr.)	3	Charles Henderson (Jr.)
FS	18	**Eric Rowe (Sr.)**	9	Tevin Carter (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	39	Andy Phillips (So.)	KR	15	Dominique Hatfield (So.)
P	33	Tom Hackett (Jr.)	PR	16	Geoffrey Norwood (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Travis Wilson, 237-133-1,827-16, 16 TDs
Rushing: Bubba Poole, 149 att., 607 yds., 2 TDs
Receiving: Dres Anderson, 53 rec., 1,002 yds., 7 TDs
Tackles: Jason Whittingham, 81
Sacks: Jacoby Hale, 6.5
Interceptions: None

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

SEC PREVIEW

T.J. YELDON, ALABAMA

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

EAST

1. GEORGIA **BULLDOGS** 10-3, 6-2 SEC
2. SOUTH CAROLINA **GAMECOCKS** 10-2, 6-2 SEC
3. FLORIDA **GATORS** 7-5, 4-4 SEC
4. MISSOURI **TIGERS** 8-4, 4-4 SEC
5. TENNESSEE **VOLUNTEERS** 6-6, 3-5 SEC
6. VANDERBILT **COMMODORES** 6-6, 2-6 SEC
7. KENTUCKY **WILDCATS** 4-8, 1-7 SEC

WEST

1. ALABAMA **CRIMSON TIDE** 12-1, 7-1 SEC
2. AUBURN **TIGERS** 10-2, 6-2 SEC
3. OLE MISS **REBELS** 9-3, 5-3 SEC
4. LSU **TIGERS** 8-4, 4-4 SEC
5. MISSISSIPPI STATE **BULLDOGS** 8-4, 4-4 SEC
6. TEXAS A&M **AGGIES** 7-5, 3-5 SEC
7. ARKANSAS **RAZORBACKS** 4-8, 1-7 SEC

SEC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME: ALABAMA OVER GEORGIA

2014 UNIT RANKINGS

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
ALABAMA	5	1	1	5	1	2	4
ARKANSAS	12	4	13	11	11	13	14
AUBURN	1	6	3	1	5	7	6
FLORIDA	8	10	11	12	3	4	3
GEORGIA	6	2	2	7	7	1	5
KENTUCKY	13	14	12	14	12	14	13
LSU	10	5	9	3	4	9	1
MISSISSIPPI STATE	4	13	7	10	8	8	7
MISSOURI	3	9	10	8	6	12	9
OLE MISS	2	11	5	6	2	3	2
SOUTH CAROLINA	7	3	8	4	9	6	8
TENNESSEE	11	8	6	13	14	5	10
TEXAS A&M	9	7	4	2	10	11	11
VANDERBILT	14	12	14	9	13	10	12

Yeldon: Chris Covatta; Wilson: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports

2013 SEC STANDINGS

EAST	SEC	OVERALL	WEST	SEC	OVERALL
MISSOURI	7-1	12-2	AUBURN	7-1	12-2
SOUTH CAROLINA	6-2	11-2	ALABAMA	7-1	11-2
GEORGIA	5-3	8-5	LSU	5-3	10-3
VANDERBILT	4-4	9-4	TEXAS A&M	4-4	9-4
FLORIDA	3-5	4-8	MISSISSIPPI STATE	3-5	7-6
TENNESSEE	2-6	5-7	OLE MISS	3-5	8-5
KENTUCKY	0-8	2-10	ARKANSAS	0-8	3-9

RAMIK WILSON, GEORGIA

2014 SEC BOWL PROJECTIONS

College Football Playoff Alabama vs. Florida State
Orange Bowl Auburn vs. Clemson
Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl Georgia vs. Marshall
Fiesta Bowl South Carolina vs. Oregon
Capital One Bowl Ole Miss vs. Michigan State
Gator Bowl LSU vs. Virginia Tech
Outback Bowl Florida vs. Wisconsin
Music City Bowl Missouri vs. Iowa
Belk Bowl Mississippi State vs. Louisville
Texas Bowl Texas A&M vs. TCU
Liberty Bowl Tennessee vs. Oklahoma State
Birmingham Bowl Vanderbilt vs. UCF

2013 SEC BOWL RESULTS

Music City Bowl Ole Miss 25, Georgia Tech 17
Liberty Bowl Mississippi State 44, Rice 7
Chick-fil-A Bowl Texas A&M 52, Duke 48
Gator Bowl Nebraska 24, Georgia 19
Outback Bowl LSU 21, Iowa 14
Capital One Bowl South Carolina 34, Wisconsin 24
Sugar Bowl Oklahoma 45, Alabama 31
Cotton Bowl Missouri 41, Oklahoma State 31
BBVA Compass Bowl Vanderbilt 41, Houston 24
BCS National Championship Florida State 34, Auburn 31

RECRUITING BY SCHOOL

1. Alabama 2. LSU 3. Texas A&M 4. Auburn 5. Tennessee 6. Georgia 7. Florida 8. Ole Miss 9. South Carolina 10. Kentucky 11. Arkansas 12. Mississippi State 13. Missouri 14. Vanderbilt

PRESEASON ALL-SEC TEAM

FIRST-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	NICK MARSHALL	6-1	210	Sr.	Auburn
RB	TODD GURLEY	6-1	232	Jr.	Georgia
RB	T.J. YELDON	6-2	218	Jr.	Alabama
WR	AMARI COOPER	6-1	202	Jr.	Alabama
WR	LAQUON TREADWELL	6-2	224	So.	Ole Miss
TE	O.J. HOWARD	6-6	237	So.	Alabama
C	REESE DISMUKES	6-3	295	Sr.	Auburn
G	A.J. CANN	6-4	318	Sr.	South Carolina
G	ALEX KOZAN	6-4	300	So.	Auburn
T	CEDRIC OGBUEHI	6-5	300	Sr.	Texas A&M
T	LAREMY TUNSIL	6-5	315	So.	Ole Miss

FIRST-TEAM DEFENSE

DE	DANTE FOWLER	6-3	266	Jr.	Florida
DE	A'SHAWN ROBINSON	6-4	320	So.	Alabama
DT	CHRIS JONES	6-5	300	So.	Mississippi State
DT	ROBERT NKEMDICHE	6-4	277	So.	Ole Miss
LB	TREY DEPRIEST	6-2	245	Sr.	Alabama
LB	A.J. JOHNSON	6-2	242	Sr.	Tennessee
LB	RAMIK WILSON	6-2	232	Sr.	Georgia
CB	VERNON HARGREAVES III	5-11	192	So.	Florida
CB	TRE'DAVIOUS WHITE	5-11	177	So.	LSU
S	LANDON COLLINS	6-0	215	Jr.	Alabama
S	CODY PREWITT	6-2	212	Sr.	Ole Miss

FIRST-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	MARSHALL MORGAN	6-3	200	Jr.	Georgia
P	DREW KASER	6-3	205	Jr.	Texas A&M
KR	CHRISTION JONES	5-11	185	Sr.	Alabama
PR	CHRISTION JONES	5-11	185	Sr.	Alabama

SECOND-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	BO WALLACE	6-4	203	Sr.	Ole Miss
RB	ALEX COLLINS	5-11	216	So.	Arkansas
RB	MIKE DAVIS	5-9	216	Jr.	South Carolina
WR	SAMMIE COATES	6-2	201	Jr.	Auburn
WR	MALCOLM MITCHELL	6-1	190	Jr.	Georgia
TE	HUNTER HENRY	6-6	251	So.	Arkansas
C	DAVID ANDREWS	6-2	295	Sr.	Georgia
G	JARVIS HARRISON	6-4	325	Sr.	Texas A&M
G	AARON MORRIS	6-5	355	Sr.	Ole Miss
T	LA'EL COLLINS	6-5	315	Sr.	LSU
T	AUSTIN SHEPHERD	6-5	315	Sr.	Alabama

SECOND-TEAM DEFENSE

DE	TREY FLOWERS	6-4	267	Sr.	Arkansas
DE	MARKUS GOLDEN	6-3	260	Sr.	Missouri
DT	JONATHAN BULLARD	6-3	270	Jr.	Florida
DT	GABE WRIGHT	6-3	284	Sr.	Auburn
LB	LEONARD FLOYD	6-4	220	So.	Georgia
LB	JORDAN JENKINS	6-3	246	Jr.	Georgia
LB	SKAI MOORE	6-2	210	So.	South Carolina
CB	DESHAZOR EVERETT	6-0	188	Sr.	Texas A&M
CB	RASHARD ROBINSON	6-1	163	So.	LSU
S	TONY CONNER	6-0	217	So.	Ole Miss
S	ROBENSON THEREZIE	5-9	212	Sr.	Auburn

SECOND-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	COLBY DELAHOUSSAYE	5-10	169	So.	LSU
P	SAM IRWIN-HILL	6-3	201	Sr.	Arkansas
KR	TREY WILLIAMS	5-8	195	Jr.	Texas A&M
PR	MARCUS MURPHY	5-9	195	Sr.	Missouri

FLORIDA GATORS

NATIONAL FORECAST 23
SEC EAST PREDICTION 3

Head Coach: Will Muschamp
Record at School: 22-16 (3 years)
Career Record: 22-16 (3 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Kurt Roper
Defensive Coordinator: D.J. Durkin
Gainesville, FL
Ben Hill Griffin Stadium (88,548)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 7-5, 4-4 (SEC)

August	
30	Idaho
September	
6	Eastern Michigan
13	Kentucky
20	at Alabama
October	
4	at Tennessee
11	LSU
18	Missouri
November	
1	vs. Georgia #
8	at Vanderbilt
15	South Carolina
22	Eastern Kentucky
29	at Florida State

Jacksonville, FL

2013 RESULTS (4-8, 3-5)

Aug. 31	Toledo	W	24-6
Sept. 7	at Miami	L	16-21
Sept. 21	Tennessee	W	31-17
Sept. 28	at Kentucky	W	24-7
Oct. 5	Arkansas	W	30-10
Oct. 12	at LSU	L	6-17
Oct. 19	at Missouri	L	17-36
Nov. 2	vs. Georgia %	L	20-23
Nov. 9	Vanderbilt	L	17-34
Nov. 16	at South Carolina	L	14-19
Nov. 23	Georgia Southern	L	20-26
Nov. 30	Florida State	L	7-37

% Jacksonville

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Jalen Tabor, CB, Washington, D.C.
2. Gerald Willis, DE, New Orleans, LA
3. Will Grier, QB, Davidson, NC
4. Thomas Holley, DT, Brooklyn, NY
5. David Sharpe, OL, Jacksonville, FL
6. Treon Harris, QB, Miami, FL
7. J.C. Jackson, CB, Immokalee, FL
8. Khairi Clark, DL, Hollywood, FL
9. Duke Dawson, CB, Cross City, FL
10. Quincy Wilson, DB, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	18.8 ppg	14	112
Rushing	145.8 ypg	13	87
Passing	170.9 ypg	12	107
Total	316.7 ypg	14	113
Defense	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
Scoring	21.1 ppg	3	15
Rushing	142.4 ypg	2	33
Passing	171.8 ypg	1	7
Total	314.3 ypg	2	8
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
-2	-0.2	12	74

OFFENSE One sure sign that Florida football is in a dire situation: The Gators are looking to a Duke coach to boost the confidence of the offense. The arrival of Kurt Roper from the Duke staff means that a now-healthy Jeff Driskel will run a system featuring more shotgun snaps, more plays hinging on his mobility and more no-huddle. "We're more comfortable in the gun," Florida coach Will Muschamp says. "That's why Kurt Roper is here."

Even though Florida returns the same cast of characters, Muschamp says the receiver and running back group is the most complete he's had in his time in Gainesville. Kelvin Taylor, the son of former Florida running back Fred Taylor, emerged in the second half as a feature back who can thrive in open space. Leading rusher Mack Brown returns as well. He can be an effective runner inside the tackles.

The leading returning receiver, Quinton Dunbar, has proved to be reliable, but the key to the receivers is Demarcus Robinson. He was a standout in spring last season but caught only five passes in the regular season. The 6'2", 201-pound sophomore is Florida's most athletic receiver. Tight end continues to lag behind, so a three-wide formation remains the best option for the Gators.

Florida lost two linemen who started a combined 84 career games, but the Gators hope to have two healthy starting tackles, D.J. Humphries and Chaz Green, who were limited by injuries last season. Max Garcia, who started at left guard and left tackle last season, will play center.

STAT CORNER

7.1

Yards per play averaged by Florida in 2008, the Gators' last national title season. That number collapsed to 4.8 in 2013.

DEFENSE Dante Fowler Jr. is the key figure if Florida is going to improve its sack numbers. The Gators ranked 11th in the SEC in sacks per game last season (1.6) and haven't ranked higher than sixth since 2009. Fowler's 2013 season, though, took a turn after tackle Dominique Easley was lost for the season in September, and now Easley is gone for good.

At linebacker, Antonio Morrison appeared to be on track as an impact player as a sophomore in 2013, but the linebacker was inconsistent for eight games before a knee injury ended his season. Also in the linebacker corps, fifth-year senior Mike Taylor emerged in spring as a rock-solid leader, and sophomore Jarrad Davis looked like he could be a rising star.

Beyond cornerback Vernon Hargreaves III, talent in the secondary is unproven. Hargreaves quickly became one of the top players in the conference as a freshman and could be one of the nation's best cornerbacks in 2014. Even after starter Cody Riggs transferred to Notre Dame, safety will be a more veteran position, comparatively, with senior Jabari Gorman and sophomores Keanu Neal and Marcus Maye.

SPECIALISTS Florida must find answers to fix an atrocious kicking game. The Gators benched 2012 Ray Guy finalist Kyle Christy as they finished 10th in the SEC in net punting. Christy will try to reclaim the job from Johnny Townsend. Meanwhile, Florida kickers went 12-of-22 on field goals. Sophomore Austin Hardin hit 4-of-12. Andre Debose, a rising star whose career has been derailed by injuries and off-field issues, could be a wild card on special teams if he returns healthy and in Muschamp's good graces.

FINAL ANALYSIS Muschamp enters the most critical season of his tenure with his third offensive coordinator in three seasons in Gainesville. It's not a stretch to say that hiring Roper is the most important move Muschamp has made. The Gators are coming off their first losing season since 1979, the low point a 26–20 loss to Georgia Southern. Muschamp needs Roper to rebuild the confidence on offense. If not, Florida may be looking for more than an offensive coordinator.

VERNON HARGREAVES III

THE QUOTE

"Their talent on defense is fantastic, but that talent didn't always work hard. There were a lot of guys who were worried about (the NFL)."

– An opposing SEC assistant coach

OFFENSE (3)

WR	**1**	**Quinton Dunbar (Sr.)**	86	Raphael Andrades (Jr.)
WR	5	Ahmad Fulwood (So.)	11	Demarcus Robinson (So.)
WR	9	Latroy Pittman (Jr.)	10	Valdez Showers (Jr.)
LT	70	D.J. Humphries (Jr.)	55	Rod Johnson (Fr.)
LG	73	Tyler Moore (Jr.)	63	Trip Thurman (Jr.)
C	**76**	**Max Garcia (Sr.)**	54	Cam Dillard (Fr.)
RG	74	Trenton Brown (Sr.)	72	Drew Sarvary (Jr.)
RT	75	Chaz Green (Sr.)	53	Kavaris Harkless (Fr.)
QB	6	Jeff Driskel (Jr.)	17	Skyler Mornhinweg (So.)
RB	24	Matt Jones (Jr.)	**41**	**Hunter Joyer (Sr.)**
RB	21	Kelvin Taylor (So.)	33	Mack Brown (Sr.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	**90**	**Jonathan Bullard (Jr.)**	94	Bryan Cox, Jr. (So.)
NG	**8**	**Leon Orr (Sr.)**	99	Jay-nard Bostwick (Fr.)
DT	**55**	**Darious Cummings (Sr.)**	90	Jonathan Bullard (Jr.)
BUCK	6	Dante Fowler Jr. (Jr.)	14	Alex McCalister (So.)
WLB	**3**	**Antonio Morrison (Jr.)**	40	Jarrad Davis (So.)
MLB	**51**	**Michael Taylor (Sr.)**	3	Antonio Morrison (Jr.)
SLB	**11**	**Neiron Ball (Sr.)**	34	Alex Anzalone (So.)
CB	**1**	**Vernon Hargreaves III (So.)**	24	Brian Poole (Jr.)
CB	5	Jalen Tabor (Fr.)	7	Duke Dawson (Fr.)
SS	20	Marcus Maye (So.)	26	Marcell Harris (Fr.)
FS	2	Jabari Gorman (Sr.)	42	Keanu Neal (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	16	Austin Hardin (So.)	**KR**	4	Andre Debose (Sr.)
P	19	Johnny Townsend (So.)	**PR**	1	Vernon Hargreaves III (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Skyler Mornhinweg, 63-44-344-1, 3 TDs
Rushing: Mack Brown, 148 att., 543 yds., 4 TDs
Receiving: Quinton Dunbar, 40 rec., 548 yds., 0 TDs
Tackles: Michael Taylor, 62
Sacks: Dante Fowler Jr., 3.5
Interceptions: Vernon Hargreaves III, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Tim Umphrey

GEORGIA BULLDOGS

NATIONAL FORECAST 8
SEC EAST PREDICTION 1

Head Coach: Mark Richt
Record at School: 126-45 (13 years)
Career Record: 126-45 (13 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Mike Bobo
Defensive Coordinator: Jeremy Pruitt
Athens, GA
Sanford Stadium (92,746)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 10-3, 6-2 (SEC)

August	
30	Clemson
September	
13	at South Carolina
20	Troy
27	Tennessee
October	
4	Vanderbilt
11	at Missouri
18	vs. Arkansas #
November	
1	vs. Florida %
8	at Kentucky
15	Auburn
22	Charleston Southern
29	Georgia Tech

#Little Rock, AR %Jacksonville, FL

2013 RESULTS (8-5, 5-3)

Aug. 31	at Clemson		L	35–38
Sept. 7	South Carolina		W	41–30
Sept. 21	North Texas		W	45–21
Sept. 28	LSU		W	44–41
Oct. 5	at Tennessee	(ot)	W	34–31
Oct. 12	Missouri		L	26–41
Oct. 19	at Vanderbilt		L	27–31
Nov. 2	vs. Florida %		W	23–20
Nov. 9	Appalachian State		W	45–6
Nov. 16	at Auburn		L	38–43
Nov. 23	Kentucky		W	59–17
Nov. 30	at Georgia Tech	(ot)	W	41–34
Jan. 1	vs. Nebraska #		L	19–24

%Jacksonville #Gator Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Lorenzo Carter, DE/OLB, Norcross, GA
2. Sony Michel, RB, Plantation, FL
3. Nick Chubb, RB, Cedartown, GA
4. Malkom Parrish, CB, Quitman, GA
5. Isaiah Wynn, OL, St. Petersburg, FL
6. Jacob Park, QB, Goose Creek, SC
7. Jeb Blazevich, TE, Charlotte, NC
8. Lamont Gaillard, DL, Fayetteville, NC
9. Keyon Brown, DE, Wauchula, FL
10. Dyshon Sims, OL, Valdosta, GA

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	36.7 ppg	5	21
Rushing	169.9 ypg	11	65
Passing	314.2 ypg	2	15
Total	484.2 ypg	4	17
Defense	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
Scoring	29.0 ppg	10	78
Rushing	148.2 ypg	6	41
Passing	227.4 ypg	9	60
Total	375.5 ypg	8	45
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
-7	-0.5	13	102

OFFENSE The Hutson Mason era got off to an early start last year, and that may prove invaluable to Georgia. Instead of Mason's first real game action coming this year against Clemson and South Carolina, the senior enters the season with two-and-a-half games under his belt.

Mason doesn't have as strong an arm as Aaron Murray, who rewrote most of Georgia's passing records. But Mason knows the offense, and gained the confidence of coaches and teammates during the four years he served as Murray's top backup. More important, Mason has most of Murray's supporting cast.

Tailback Todd Gurley is a Heisman candidate if healthy, which he wasn't last year. Even at less than 100 percent, Gurley gives the Bulldogs a different dimension on offense: It's no coincidence that Georgia went 1–2 in the three full games he missed. The Bulldogs are very deep at tailback, especially if Keith Marshall returns after tearing his ACL last year. But Gurley is on another level.

Receiver is also a deep position, bolstered by the expected return of Malcolm Mitchell, who also tore his ACL last year. Seniors Chris Conley (the team's leading returning receiver) and Michael Bennett are as solid as they come. Justin Scott-Wesley and Reggie Davis are downfield threats. And at tight end, Jay Rome is ready to move into a bigger role after serving as a backup the past two years.

The offensive line, meanwhile, lost three starters, but experienced players will step into their spots. Junior tackle John Theus seems poised to live up to his hype, and senior center David Andrews is an underrated anchor. Still, in the long run the line is the biggest question mark on this offense.

STAT CORNER

171

Georgia gains of at least 20 yards from scrimmage in 2012-13. Texas A&M is the only SEC team with more.

DEFENSE Georgia gave up a program record for points last year, and the most yards per game (375.5) of the Mark Richt era, and a few days after the season ended defensive coordinator Todd Grantham bolted for the same job at Louisville. Richt needed just two days to hire Jeremy Pruitt away from Florida State, in a move that could help Georgia twice over.

Not only is it a fresh start for the entire defense, but Pruitt also coaches the secondary, which was the weak point of Georgia's defense in 2013. The run defense was actually solid (sixth in the SEC), and the 33 sacks were the second-most in the conference. The front seven essentially returns intact. Inside linebacker Ramik Wilson emerged as a first-team All-SEC pick, and outside linebackers Jordan Jenkins and Leonard Floyd are poised for bigger things.

So the defense's prospects all come down to the secondary, which wasn't helped by the offseason dismissal of safety Josh Harvey-Clemons. But there is plenty of highly recruited talent back there. Pruitt just needs to find the right parts and figure out what Grantham and his staff couldn't.

SPECIALISTS Junior Marshall Morgan is coming off an all-SEC year in which he hit 22-of-24 field goals. Punter is a bigger concern, after junior Collin Barber was inconsistent last year. One of the more intriguing new players to watch is Isaiah McKenzie, a speedy recruit who the Bulldogs hope can serve as their return specialist. "He's a very dynamic return man," Richt says.

FINAL ANALYSIS Barring the unforeseen, Georgia's prospects come down to Mason and the defense. Mason's spring performance provided some encouragement; then again, it was only spring practice. The defense, based simply on personnel, should be improved, and if Pruitt can push the right buttons, it could one of the best in the SEC. If Mason is good, the defense is better and Gurley is healthy, Georgia can be a national title contender. But none of that is assured.

TODD GURLEY

Mark Langello/Athlon Sports

THE QUOTE

"Todd Gurley is as good as I have seen in the league. Nobody wants to tackle the kid, and he runs away from everybody on the defense."

— An opposing SEC assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	31	**Chris Conley (Sr.)**	82	**Michael Bennett (Sr.)**
WR	26	Malcolm Mitchell (Jr.)	81	Reggie Davis (So.)
LT	71	**John Theus (Jr.)**	63	Xzavier Ward (Jr.)
LG	54	Brandon Kublanow (So.)	79	Mark Beard (Sr.)
C	61	**David Andrews (Sr.)**	60	Josh Cardiello (Fr.)
RG	73	Greg Pyke (So.)	78	Watts Dantzler (Sr.)
RT	75	Kolton Houston (Sr.)		Dyshon Sims (Fr.)
TE	87	Jay Rome (Jr.)	85	Jordan Davis (Fr.)
QB	14	Hutson Mason (Sr.)	10	Faton Bauta (So.)
FB	43	Merritt Hall (Jr.)	48	Quayvon Hicks (Jr.)
RB	3	**Todd Gurley (Jr.)**	4	Keith Marshall (Jr.)

DEFENSE (10)

DE	58	**Sterling Bailey (Jr.)**	88	Toby Johnson (Sr.)
NT	93	**Chris Mayes (Jr.)**	96	Mike Thornton (Sr.)
DE	47	**Ray Drew (Sr.)**	89	James DeLoach (Jr.)
OLB	84	**Leonard Floyd (So.)**		Lorenzo Carter (Fr.)
ILB	51	**Ramik Wilson (Sr.)**	45	Reggie Carter (So.)
ILB	52	**Amarlo Herrera (Sr.)**	42	Tim Kimbrough (So.)
OLB	59	**Jordan Jenkins (Jr.)**	17	Davin Bellamy (Fr.)
CB	5	**Damian Swann (Sr.)**	2	Sheldon Dawson (Jr.)
CB	6	**Shaq Wiggins (So.)**	4	Brendan Langley (So.)
FS	20	**Quincy Mauger (So.)**	28	Tray Matthews (So.)
SS	39	Corey Moore (Sr.)		Shattle Fenteng (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	13	Marshall Morgan (Jr.)	KR	Isaiah McKenzie (Fr.)
P	32	Collin Barber (Jr.)	PR	Isaiah McKenzie (Fr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Hutson Mason, 110-67-968-3, 5 TDs
Rushing: Todd Gurley, 165 att., 989 yds., 10 TDs
Receiving: Chris Conley, 45 rec., 651 yds., 4 TDs
Tackles: Ramik Wilson, 133
Sacks: Leonard Floyd, 6.5
Interceptions: Shaq Wiggins, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

KENTUCKY WILDCATS

NATIONAL FORECAST **70**
SEC EAST PREDICTION **7**

Head Coach: Mark Stoops
Record at School: 2-10 (1 year)
Career Record: 2-10 (1 year)
Offensive Coordinator: Neal Brown
Defensive Coordinator: D.J. Eliot
Lexington, KY
Commonwealth Stadium (67,942)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 4-8, 1-7 (SEC)

August	
30	Tennessee-Martin
September	
6	Ohio
13	at Florida
27	Vanderbilt
October	
4	South Carolina
11	ULM
18	at LSU
25	Mississippi State
November	
1	at Missouri
8	Georgia
15	at Tennessee
29	at Louisville

2013 RESULTS (2-10, 0-8)

Aug. 31	Western Kentucky %	L	26–35
Sept. 7	Miami (Ohio)	W	41–7
Sept. 14	Louisville	L	13–27
Sept. 28	Florida	L	7–24
Oct. 5	at South Carolina	L	28–35
Oct. 12	Alabama	L	7–48
Oct. 24	at Mississippi State	L	22–28
Nov. 2	Alabama State	W	48–14
Nov. 9	Missouri	L	17–48
Nov. 16	at Vanderbilt	L	6–22
Nov. 23	at Georgia	L	17–59
Nov. 30	Tennessee	L	14–27

%Nashville

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Drew Barker, QB, Burlington, KY
2. Matt Elam, DT, Elizabethtown, KY
3. Darius West, DB, Lima, OH
4. Denzel Ware, DL, Crestview, FL
5. Stanley Williams, RB, Monroe, GA
6. Thaddeus Snodgrass, WR, Springfield, OH
7. Mikel Horton, RB, West Chester, OH
8. Mike Edwards, DB, Cincinnati, OH
9. Kendall Randolph, DB, Tallahassee, FL
10. C.J. Johnson, DT, Columbia, SC*

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	20.5 ppg	13	107
Rushing	147.9 ypg	12	85
Passing	193.3 ypg	10	98
Total	341.2 ypg	13	107
Defense	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
Scoring	31.2 ppg	13	89
Rushing	197.3 ypg	12	93
Passing	229.8 ypg	10	64
Total	427.2 ypg	13	91
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
0	0.0	9	61

OFFENSE The "Air Raid" didn't exactly take flight in Year 1 under coordinator Neal Brown. Kentucky ranked 98th in passing offense in 2013 after Brown's Texas Tech offenses ranked top-10 nationally in each of his three years in Lubbock. Blame a bad roster for some of those struggles — he inherited sparse talent and precious little depth — but Brown is not without regrets.

"What happens when you're maybe not as talented as some of the teams you're playing is you try to out-scheme some people and maybe deviate from the system you have in place," Brown says. "I think we did that. We tried to maybe cover up some areas that were weaknesses for us, where if I had it to do over again I would just really concentrate on fundamentals and stuck with the system and not swayed off it as much."

He'll get back to that system — and his usual fast pace — this fall. Improved quarterback play will help. A pair of former four-star recruits, sophomore Patrick Towles and freshman Drew Barker, and redshirt freshman Reese Phillips staged a tight spring competition, with Towles holding a slight edge.

This year's quarterback will benefit from a stacked backfield — four former four-star recruits, led by sophomore Jojo Kemp and junior Nebraska transfer Braylon Heard — and a veteran offensive line. Four starters return up front, including standout tackles Darrian Miller and Jordan Swindle. At receiver, playmakers Javess Blue and Ryan Timmons are back along with the rest of UK's top five wideouts from 2013.

STAT CORNER

-2.4

Kentucky's per-play yardage differential in league games, by far the worst in the SEC. The Cats averaged 4.4 yards per play and gave up 6.8.

DEFENSE The defense should take a significant step forward in Year 2. Mark Stoops' defenses at Arizona and Florida State did, and the Cats return eight starters plus add several talented newcomers. Few SEC teams will have a more formidable pair of defensive ends than 6'6", 264-pound Za'Darius Smith and 6'4", 267-pound Bud Dupree, who combined for 13 sacks last season.

Kentucky's biggest loss is at middle linebacker, where Avery Williamson had 100-plus tackles each of the last two seasons and was a locker room leader. Junior Josh Forrest, a long, athletic former receiver and defensive back, will battle junior college transfer Ryan Flannigan for that job.

The most important area of improvement is the secondary. UK's defensive backs intercepted just one pass last season and ranked 117th in passes defended. But they'll get a boost at safety from junior college transfer A.J. Stamps and at corner from J.D. Harmon, who led the team in interceptions in 2012 but was academically ineligible last fall. Four freshman defensive backs — three of them four-star recruits — will also significantly upgrade the talent.

SPECIALISTS The Cats have a new special teams coordinator in Craig Naivar, a high-energy guy who blasts 1980s hair metal before meetings. They also have junior punter Landon Foster back in freshman form. He had 22 punts of 50-plus yards that year but just seven such bombs in 2013 thanks to a nagging quadriceps injury. He's healthy now and averaged 45.6 yards on eight punts in the spring game. The new field-goal kicker is redshirt freshman Austin MacGinnis, a former top-three recruit nationally at his position.

FINAL ANALYSIS Stoops has done the impossible — keep fans and recruits excited after a 2–10 debut season. He signed a top-25 class and had 35,000 people show up for this year's spring game, second-most in program history. Now he just needs to win. Although he posted exactly the same record that got Joker Phillips fired a year earlier, the Cats were more competitive in 2013, losing five games by two touchdowns or less and three by single digits. The big payoff is probably still a year away, but a four- or five-win season this fall would probably keep everyone happy.

BUD DUPREE

THE QUOTE

"Just average. That's the reality of the situation. They appeared to be a better-coached team last year. But you still have to have players."

— An opposing SEC assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	1	Ryan Timmons (So.)	82	T.V. Williams (Fr.)
WR	**8**	**Javess Blue (Sr.)**	17	Alexander Montgomery (So.)
WR	9	Demarco Robinson (Sr.)	13	Jeff Badet (So.)
LT	**77**	**Darrian Miller (Sr.)**	76	Teven Eatmon-Nared (Sr.)
LG	**75**	**Zach West (Jr.)**	68	Nick Haynes (Fr.)
C	**72**	**Jon Toth (So.)**	57	Zach Myers (So.)
RG	69	Ramsey Meyers (Fr.)	74	Cole Mosier (Fr.)
RT	**70**	**Jordan Swindle (Jr.)**	73	Kyle Meadows (Fr.)
TE	85	Steven Borden (Sr.)	80	Ronnie Shields (Sr.)
QB	14	Patrick Towles (So.)	12	Reese Phillips (Fr.)
RB	5	Braylon Heard (Jr.)	3	Jojo Kemp (So.)

DEFENSE (8)

DE	**94**	**Za'Darius Smith (Sr.)**	60	Alvin Davis Jr. (Sr.)
DT	50	Mike Douglas (Sr.)	67	Cory Johnson (Jr.)
DT	96	Regie Meant (Fr.)	92	Christian Coleman (Sr.)
DE	**2**	**Bud Dupree (Sr.)**	6	Jason Hatcher (So.)
OLB	**22**	**Khalid Henderson (Jr.)**	7	Daron Blaylock (Jr.)
MLB	45	Josh Forrest (Jr.)		Ryan Flannigan (Jr.)
OLB	**24**	**Blake McClain (So.)**	41	TraVaughn Paschal (Sr.)
CB	**21**	**Nate Willis (Sr.)**	16	Cody Quinn (Jr.)
CB	11	J.D. Harmon (So.)	**3**	**Fred Tiller (Jr.)**
SS	**5**	**Ashely Lowery (Sr.)**	18	Glenn Faulkner (Jr.)
FS	1	A.J. Stamps (Jr.)	**28**	**Eric Dixon (Sr.)**

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	99	Austin MacGinnis (Fr.)	KR	8	Javess Blue (Sr.)
P	9	Landon Foster (Jr.)	PR	9	Demarco Robinson (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Maxwell Smith, 183-105-1,276-1, 9 TDs
Rushing: Jojo Kemp, 100 att., 482 yds., 3 TDs
Receiving: Javess Blue, 43 rec., 586 yds., 4 TDs
Tackles: Bud Dupree, 61
Sacks: Bud Dupree, 7.0
Interceptions: 3 players tied with 1

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Brian Tirpak

MISSOURI TIGERS

NATIONAL FORECAST 25
SEC EAST PREDICTION 4

Head Coach: Gary Pinkel
Record at School: 102-63 (13 years)
Career Record: 175-100-3 (23 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Josh Henson
Defensive Coordinator: Dave Steckel
Columbia, MO
Memorial Stadium (67,124)

2014 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 8-4, 4-4 (SEC)

August	
30	South Dakota State
September	
6	at Toledo
13	UCF
20	Indiana
27	at South Carolina
October	
11	Georgia
18	at Florida
25	Vanderbilt
November	
1	Kentucky
15	at Texas A&M
22	at Tennessee
29	Arkansas

2013 RESULTS (12-2, 7-1)

Aug. 31	Murray State		W	58–14
Sept. 7	Toledo		W	38–23
Sept. 21	at Indiana		W	45–28
Sept. 28	Arkansas State		W	41–19
Oct. 5	at Vanderbilt		W	51–28
Oct. 12	at Georgia		W	41–26
Oct. 19	Florida		W	36–17
Oct. 26	South Carolina	(ot)	L	24–27
Nov. 2	Tennessee		W	31–3
Nov. 9	at Kentucky		W	48–17
Nov. 23	at Ole Miss		W	24–10
Nov. 30	Texas A&M		W	28–21
Dec. 7	vs. Auburn %		L	42–59
Jan. 3	vs. Oklahoma State #		W	41–31

%Atlanta #Cotton Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Andy Bauer, T, St. Louis, MO
2. Brandon Lee, LB, Indianapolis, IN
3. Nate Brown, WR, Suwanee, GA
4. Raymond Wingo, CB, St. Louis, MO
5. Lawrence Lee, WR, Pensacola, FL
6. DeSean Blair, WR, Jacksonville, FL
7. Greg Taylor, S, East St. Louis, IL
8. Trevon Walters, RB, Bradenton, FL
9. Kenya Dennis, CB, Raymond, MS*
10. Tavon Ross, S, Cochran, GA

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	39.1 ppg	3	13
Rushing	237.9 ypg	2	16
Passing	252.9 ypg	5	41
Total	490.7 ypg	3	16
Defense	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
Scoring	23.1 ppg	6	34
Rushing	152.9 ypg	7	49
Passing	264.8 ypg	14	107
Total	417.7 ypg	10	81
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
+16	1.1	1	5

OFFENSE It's Maty Mauk's show. The precocious sophomore quarterback filled in for an injured James Franklin and kept Missouri steered toward a stunning SEC East Division title last fall, and with Franklin out of the picture, Mauk takes the reins. He brings to the table confidence and big-play ability. He completed only 51 percent of his passes in 2013, but he averaged nearly 16 yards per completion and threw only two interceptions. And he's got weapons around him.

Three Missouri running backs rushed for at least 600 yards and 6.0 yards per carry, and while Henry Josey stole the show late in the year, Russell Hansbrough and Marcus Murphy had their share of moments. Josey is off to the pros, but Hansbrough and Murphy return to carry the load for a Missouri running game anchored by a line that improved dramatically last fall. Left tackle Justin Britt is gone, but three starters return up front, including potential all-conference center Evan Boehm.

The Tigers lost receivers Marcus Lucas and L'Damian Washington to graduation but still expected to field a strong corps of pass-catchers. That was until Dorial Green-Beckham, a former five-star recruit, was dismissed from the team in April. DGB's departure will put more pressure on Bud Sasser and Jimmie Hunt to emerge as primary options in the passing game. They will be joined by a grab bag of rotation candidates. Senior Darius White is a former blue-chipper with one last chance to make an impact. Sophomore Levi Copelin and redshirt freshman J'Mon Moore had some strong moments in spring practice.

STAT CORNER

107

Tackles for a loss made by Missouri's defense in 2013, fifth in the country. Those responsible for 57.0 return in 2014.

DEFENSE Missouri lost a ferocious pair of pass-rushers in Michael Sam and Kony Ealy, but if you were to ask insiders what position might be the biggest strength for the Tiger defense in 2014, the answer would probably be "defensive end." Markus Golden and Shane Ray return after combining for 11 sacks and 22 tackles for a loss in backup duty. Every defensive tackle from the end-of-year two-deep returns as well. Run support could be an issue at end, however, and it's possible that tackle Harold Brantley could see time lined up wide on the line.

The line will need to thrive again in 2014 to take pressure off of less proven pieces in the back of the defense. Kentrell Brothers, a 2013 starter at outside linebacker, takes over for hard-hitting Andrew Wilson in the middle. He will be joined by some combination of veterans who have yet to crack the starting lineup or youngsters with potential and minimal proven production.

Meanwhile, an experienced set of safeties, led by longtime starter Braylon Webb, should be able to help in big-play prevention, but there will be a lot of pressure on athletic sophomore cornerbacks Aarion Penton and John Gibson. They are tasked with replacing E.J. Gaines and Randy Ponder.

SPECIALISTS Missouri has loads of experience in the special teams units. Murphy was one of the country's best return men in 2012, and Andrew Baggett made 6-of-8 field goals longer than 40 yards in 2013. They are not without question marks, however; Murphy didn't make much of an impact last fall, and Baggett fell into a costly slump last October.

FINAL ANALYSIS With 12 wins and an East title last fall, Gary Pinkel and his program managed to silence every doubter and answer every lingering question after a tough first season in the SEC. The Tigers face an interesting contradiction in 2014. There is still an abundance of star power, from Mauk on offense to Golden and Ray on defense. But the depth that was so key a year ago has been thinned out quite a bit, and injuries could be particularly costly, as they were in 2012.

MATY MAUK

Matt Hernandez/Athlon Sports

THE QUOTE

"For what they do, their offensive line is very effective. They aren't overpowering — won't maul people but are good at space blocking."

— *An opposing SEC assistant coach*

OFFENSE (4)

WR	8	Darius White (Sr.)	4	J'Mon Moore (Fr.)
WR	**21**	**Bud Sasser (Sr.)**		Nate Brown (Fr.)
WR	88	Jimmie Hunt (Sr.)	16	Levi Copelin (So.)
TE	80	Sean Culkin (So.)	10	Jason Reese (Fr.)
LT	**65**	**Mitch Morse (Sr.)**	72	Clay Rhodes (Fr.)
LG	70	Anthony Gatti (Sr.)	76	Jordan Williams (So.)
C	**77**	**Evan Boehm (Jr.)**	63	Brad McNulty (Jr.)
RG	73	Mitch Hall (Jr.)	51	Stephen Carberry (Sr.)
RT	**60**	**Connor McGovern (Jr.)**	62	Taylor Chappell (Jr.)
QB	7	Maty Mauk (So.)	9	Eddie Printz (Fr.)
RB	32	Russell Hansbrough (Jr.)	6	Marcus Murphy (Sr.)

DEFENSE (4)

DE	33	Markus Golden (Sr.)	35	Marcus Loud (Fr.)
DT	**89**	**Matt Hoch (Sr.)**	97	Josh Augusta (So.)
NG	90	Harold Brantley (So.)	**96**	**Lucas Vincent (Sr.)**
DE	56	Shane Ray (Jr.)	91	Charles Harris (Fr.)
SLB	30	Michael Scherer (So.)	4	Brandon Lee (Fr.)
MLB	**10**	**Kentrell Brothers (Jr.)**	38	Eric Beisel (Fr.)
WLB	12	Darvin Ruise (Sr.)	25	Donavin Newsom (So.)
CB	1	John Gibson (So.)	3	David Johnson (Jr.)
CB	11	Aarion Penton (So.)	7	Kenya Dennis (Jr.)
SS	**9**	**Braylon Webb (Sr.)**	2	Duron Singleton (Sr.)
FS	21	Ian Simon (Jr.)		Tavon Ross (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	99	Andrew Baggett (Jr.)	KR	6	Marcus Murphy (Sr.)
P	92	Christian Brinser (Sr.)	PR	6	Marcus Murphy (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Maty Mauk, 133-68-1,071-2, 11 TDs
Rushing: Russell Hansbrough, 114 att., 685 yds., 4 TDs
Receiving: Bud Sasser, 26 rec., 361 yds., 1 TD
Tackles: Braylon Webb, 89
Sacks: Markus Golden, 6.5
Interceptions: Braylon Webb, 3; Kentrell Brothers, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

SOUTH CAROLINA GAMECOCKS

NATIONAL FORECAST 9
SEC EAST PREDICTION 2

Head Coach: Steve Spurrier
Record at School: 77-39 (9 years)
Career Record: 219-79-2 (24 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Steve Spurrier
Defensive Coordinator: Lorenzo Ward
Columbia, SC
Williams-Brice Stadium (80,250)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 10-2, 6-2 (SEC)

August	
28	Texas A&M
September	
6	East Carolina
13	Georgia
20	at Vanderbilt
27	Missouri
October	
4	at Kentucky
18	Furman
25	at Auburn
November	
1	Tennessee
15	at Florida
22	South Alabama
29	at Clemson

2013 RESULTS (11-2, 6-2)

Aug. 29	North Carolina	W	27–10
Sept. 7	at Georgia	L	30–41
Sept. 14	Vanderbilt	W	35–25
Sept. 28	at UCF	W	28–25
Oct. 5	Kentucky	W	35–28
Oct. 12	at Arkansas	W	52–7
Oct. 19	at Tennessee	L	21–23
Oct. 26	at Missouri (ot)	W	27–24
Nov. 2	Mississippi State	W	34–16
Nov. 16	Florida	W	19–14
Nov. 23	Coastal Carolina	W	70–10
Nov. 30	Clemson	W	31–17
Jan. 1	vs. Wisconsin #	W	34–24

#Capital One Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Bryson Allen-Williams, LB, Ellenwood, GA
2. Donnell Stanley, OL, Latta, SC
3. Abu Lamin, DT, Fayetteville, NC*
4. Wesley Green, CB, Lithonia, GA
5. Dexter Wideman, DT, Saluda, SC
6. Shaq Davidson, WR, Gaffney, SC
7. D.J. Smith, CB, Marietta, GA
8. Chris Lammons, CB, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
9. Kevin Crosby, TE, Bamberg, SC
10. Terry Googer, WR, Atlanta, GA

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	34.1 ppg	7	32
Rushing	198.5 ypg	6	32
Passing	253.8 ypg	4	40
Total	452.3 ypg	8	36
Defense	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
Scoring	20.3 ppg	2	12
Rushing	153.8 ypg	8	50
Passing	196.2 ypg	3	12
Total	350.0 ypg	5	19
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
+13	+1.0	2	8

OFFENSE The offense will rise or fall based on the performance of quarterback Dylan Thompson and running back Mike Davis.

Thompson, a senior and former two-star recruit, has been a regular fill-in for starter Connor Shaw the last two years, and he will take the reins himself for the first time this season. He must improve on a career 55 percent completion percentage and prove ready to handle the role of full-time starter if the offense is going to work the way Steve Spurrier expects.

Davis is a more known commodity. The 5'9", 216-pounder rushed for 1,183 yards in 2013, the fourth-best single-season total in school history. He had seven 100-yard games, but only one after Oct. 19 because of shoulder, knee and ankle injuries in the second half of the year. He was held out of most of the contact work this spring.

Sophomore wide receiver Pharoh Cooper may be the surprise name in the SEC this fall. He caught only three passes for 54 yards last season, but Spurrier has loved the North Carolina native since he set foot on campus. Cooper came to South Carolina planning to be a cornerback, but Spurrier quickly moved him to offense, where he had a passing, rushing and receiving touchdown once he got settled in. He'll start in the slot this year and be a regular in the Wildcat quarterback position. Junior Shaq Roland, one of the most talented pass-catchers in the SEC, will be the top target on the outside.

The offensive line, led by guard A.J. Cann and tackles Brandon Shell and Corey Robinson, has a chance to be the best of the Spurrier era.

STAT CORNER

3

Consecutive seasons in which the Gamecocks have defeated the SEC East champ (without winning the division themselves). South Carolina beat Georgia in '11 and '12 and Missouri in '13.

DEFENSE A defense that was second in the SEC in points allowed last year (20.3 ppg) will have to shore up its front and back ends quickly to be that good again.

The Gamecocks lost two first-team All-Americans on the defensive line. Defensive tackle Kelcy Quarles led the team with 9.5 sacks and then decided to give up his senior year of eligibility to enter the NFL Draft. Jadeveon Clowney, meanwhile, drew more attention from opposing offenses than any defender in college football last year, and the Gamecocks must make up for that drawing power with a team effort this year.

Linebacker, last year's weak point, will be a strong suit this year, and sophomore Skai Moore is leading the way. He led the team in tackles with 56 last year as a true freshman.

The secondary is set at safety, and there may be enough depth there to move veteran Brison Williams to cornerback, which is a good thing because there is zero depth at cornerback. If defensive coordinator Lorenzo Ward decides not to move Williams to corner in the fall, and maybe even if he does, a true freshman will be starting on the edge for South Carolina.

SPECIALISTS Sophomore Elliott Fry hit 15-of-18 attempts last year and has the look of a four-year starter. Punter Tyler Hull averaged an SEC-worst 37.8 yards last year. Cooper is expected to man both of the return spots and is hoping to give that area a punch it hasn't seen since Ace Sanders left.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Gamecocks have won 11 games in each of the last three seasons, making it easily the best three-year run in school history. Replacing Arkansas and Mississippi State on the schedule with Texas A&M and Auburn will make matching that number a tougher task this year.

However, if Thompson proves to be a worthy successor to Shaw and solid reinforcements on the defensive line and in the secondary can be identified, a second-ever trip to the SEC Championship Game is a realistic goal.

MIKE DAVIS

Margaret Bowles/Athlon Sports

THE QUOTE

"Connor Shaw was outstanding. The other kid (Dylan Thompson) got a lot of good reps. But Shaw was what made everything work there."

— An opposing SEC assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	4	Shaq Roland (Jr.)	**1**	**Damiere Byrd (Sr.)**
WR	11	Pharoh Cooper (So.)	3	Nick Jones (Sr.)
LT	**53**	**Corey Robinson (Sr.)**	74	Mason Zandi (So.)
LG	**50**	**A.J. Cann (Sr.)**	65	Brock Stadnik (So.)
C	51	Cody Waldrop (So.)	**54**	**Clayton Stadnik (So.)**
RG	76	Mike Matulis (Jr.)	75	Will Sport (Jr.)
RT	**71**	**Brandon Shell (Jr.)**	78	Cody Gibson (Sr.)
TE	**81**	**Rory Anderson (Sr.)**	89	Jerell Adams (Jr.)
QB	17	Dylan Thompson (Sr.)	6	Connor Mitch (Fr.)
FB	41	Connor McLaurin (Sr.)	31	Jordan Diaz (Sr.)
RB	**28**	**Mike Davis (Jr.)**	22	Brandon Wilds (Jr.)

DEFENSE (6)

DE	44	Gerald Dixon (So.)	34	Mason Harris (Jr.)
DT	**97**	**J.T. Surratt (Sr.)**	92	Gerald Dixon Jr. (Jr.)
DT	99	Abu Lamin (So.)	93	Deon Green (So.)
DE	5	Darius English (So.)	18	Cedrick Cooper (Jr.)
LB	**8**	**Kaiwan Lewis (Jr.)**	28	Jonathan Walton (So.)
LB	10	Skai Moore (So.)	**21**	**Marcquis Roberts (So.)**
SPUR	**9**	**Sharrod Golightly (Sr.)**	42	Jordan Diggs (So.)
CB	**12**	**Brison Williams (Sr.)**	14	Ali Groves (Fr.)
CB	1	Rico McWilliams (So.)	27	Jamari Smith (So.)
FS	17	Chaz Elder (So.)	**25**	**Kadetrix Marcus (Sr.)**
SS	20	T.J. Gurley (Jr.)	6	Chris Moody (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	29	Elliott Fry (So.)	KR 11	Pharoh Cooper (So.)
P	13	Tyler Hull (Sr.)	PR 11	Pharoh Cooper (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Dylan Thompson, 89-52-783-3, 4 TDs
Rushing: Mike Davis, 205 att., 1,183 yds., 11 TDs
Receiving: Mike Davis, 34 rec., 352 yds., 0 TDs
Tackles: Skai Moore, 56
Sacks: 3 players tied with 1.5
Interceptions: Skai Moore, 4

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS

NATIONAL FORECAST 42
SEC EAST PREDICTION 5

Head Coach: Butch Jones
Record at School: 5-7 (1 year)
Career Record: 55-34 (7 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Mike Bajakian
Defensive Coordinator: John Jancek
Knoxville, TN
Neyland Stadium (102,455)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 6-6, 3-5 (SEC)

August	
31	Utah State
September	
6	Arkansas State
13	at Oklahoma
27	at Georgia
October	
4	Florida
11	Chattanooga
18	at Ole Miss
25	Alabama
November	
1	at South Carolina
15	Kentucky
22	Missouri
29	at Vanderbilt

2013 RESULTS (5-7, 2-6)

Aug. 31	Austin Peay		W	45–0
Sept. 7	Western Kentucky		W	52–20
Sept. 14	at Oregon		L	14–59
Sept. 21	at Florida		L	17–31
Sept. 28	South Alabama		W	31–24
Oct. 5	Georgia	(ot)	L	31–34
Oct. 19	South Carolina		W	23–21
Oct. 26	at Alabama		L	10–45
Nov. 2	at Missouri		L	3–31
Nov. 9	Auburn		L	23–55
Nov. 23	Vanderbilt		L	10–14
Nov. 30	at Kentucky		W	27–14

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Josh Malone, WR, Gallatin, TN
2. Jalen Hurd, RB, Hendersonville, TN
3. Todd Kelly Jr., S, Knoxville, TN
4. Dillon Bates, LB, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL
5. Dewayne Hendrix, DE, O'Fallon, IL
6. Derrell Scott, RB, Havelock, NC
7. Von Pearson, WR, Newport News, VA*
8. Cortez McDowell, S, Locust Grove, GA
9. Daniel Helm, TE, Chatham, IL
10. Derek Barnett, DE, Brentwood, TN

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	23.8 ppg	11	94
Rushing	188.4 ypg	9	44
Passing	211.1 ypg	7	27
Total	353.3 ypg	12	102
Defense	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
Scoring	29.0 ppg	10	78
Rushing	207.3 ypg	13	100
Passing	164.9 ypg	13	109
Total	418.4 ypg	11	83
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
+1	+0.1	6	54

OFFENSE If Tennessee's offense improves significantly in 2014, you can throw football cliches out the window — or something like that. Championships may be won at the line of scrimmage, but the Vols are losing all five starting linemen from a year ago and still should be more productive on offense.

Tennessee is pinning its hopes on an influx of speedy playmakers, like freshman wideout Josh Malone and junior college star Von Pearson. Combine that with second-year improvement from Jason Croom and Marquez North, and Tennessee coaches believe their receiving corps will be vastly improved.

The primary question is, who will get the ball to the playmakers? If the quarterback battle were a political race, Justin Worley would be the conservative, reliable but somewhat bland incumbent. Riley Ferguson would be the brash young challenger — risky, but perhaps worth it.

The running game will be tested behind an entirely new offensive line. Tennessee had 2,261 rushing yards a year ago, the most since 2004. Senior Marlin Lane will have to hope that the running lanes are as generous as they have been for most of his career. But Lane is a placeholder for Jalen Hurd, the elite freshman back who coaches hope will add a bigger, tougher dimension to the Vols' ground attack.

STAT CORNER

6.1

Yards per play allowed by the Tennessee defense in 2013, 100th in the country. In SEC play, the Vols also allowed 6.1 per play, 10th in the conference.

DEFENSE The SEC offers no place to hide for teams lacking speed in the back of their defense, and the schedule was particularly cruel to the Vols in 2013. Games against warp-speed teams Oregon and Auburn provided Exhibits A and B of Tennessee's need to upgrade its speed. The changes might not be dramatic in 2014, but by improving some of the weakest links (like the nickel spot), coaches hope to notice a difference.

Speed is the new mantra now, so much so that Emmanuel Moseley, a gangly athlete who had no big-school offers when he was discovered by Tennessee, could be the starting cornerback as a true freshman. He's truly fast. After two years of breakdowns tolerated only because there were no better options, expect some veterans to lose their jobs or be pushed for playing time.

Depth at the defensive line is a real concern, but this could be the year defensive end Corey Vereen appears on the national scene. He played on passing downs in 2013 but is likely to be an every-down player now. Linebacker A.J. Johnson and hybrid Curt Maggitt will anchor the defense. Johnson keeps putting up ridiculous tackle numbers (now 324 in three years), but more widespread respect has eluded him.

SPECIALISTS Maybe it was a reflection of a rough year, but Butch Jones designated kicker/punter Michael Palardy as the team's MVP in 2013. It might take three players to replace him. Freshman Aaron Medley could end up handling field goals, although George Bullock showed a solid leg in the spring. The punting job returns to Matt Darr after he lost it to Palardy in 2013. UT has a handful of young athletes who could impact the return game, but they'll have to unseat senior Devrin Young.

FINAL ANALYSIS Even after a 5–7 debut season, Jones has retained his relentlessly sunny attitude, and it seems to be infectious in Knoxville. But here's the downer: While this team will eventually be better than the 2013 version, the roster turnover represented by 32 newcomers offers plenty of opportunities for things to go wrong. And this schedule (once again) offers little margin for error. Reaching six wins and a bowl game won't be easy, but it will be a critical hurdle in keeping the Jones-fueled optimism alive and well in Knoxville.

MARQUEZ NORTH

Tim Clark/Athlon Sports

THE QUOTE

"I like linebacker A.J. Johnson. I was surprised he came back. I thought he might've declared. He was a good player. Very active."

– An opposing SEC assistant coach

OFFENSE (4)

WR	8	**Marquez North (So.)**	3	Josh Malone (Fr.)
WR	9	Von Pearson (Jr.)	81	Johnathon Johnson (Jr.)
WR	18	**Jason Croom (So.)**	25	Josh Smith (So.)
LT	74	Dontavius Blair (Jr.)	65	Jacob Gilliam (Sr.)
LG	75	Marcus Jackson (Jr.)	60	Austin Sanders (Fr.)
C	57	Mack Crowder (Jr.)	71	Dylan Wiesman (So.)
RG	77	Kyler Kerbyson (Jr.)	71	Dylan Wiesman (So.)
RT	55	Coleman Thomas (Fr.)	63	Brett Kendrick (Fr.)
TE	88	Ethan Wolf (Fr.)	**85**	**Brendan Downs (Sr.)**
QB	**14**	**Justin Worley (Sr.)**	10	Riley Ferguson (Fr.)
RB	15	Marlin Lane (Sr.)	1	Jalen Hurd (Fr.)

DEFENSE (5)

DE	50	Corey Vereen (So.)		Dewayne Hendrix (Fr.)
DT	95	Danny O'Brien (So.)	58	Owen Williams (Jr.)
DT	96	Trevarris Saulsberry (Jr.)		Charles Mosley (Fr.)
DE	54	Jordan Williams (Sr.)		Derek Barnett (Fr.)
LEO	56	Curt Maggitt (Jr.)		Derek Barnett (Fr.)
LB	**45**	**A.J. Johnson (Sr.)**		Dillon Bates (Fr.)
LB	34	Jalen Reeves-Maybin (So.)		Chris Weatherd (Jr.)
CB	**23**	**Cameron Sutton (So.)**	**27**	**Justin Coleman (Sr.)**
CB	12	Emmanuel Moseley (Fr.)	22	Malik Foreman (So.)
S	**37**	**Brian Randolph (Jr.)**	13	Devaun Swafford (So.)
S	**33**	**LaDarrell McNeil (Jr.)**		Todd Kelly (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K		Aaron Medley (Fr.)	**KR** 19	Devrin Young (Sr.)
P	43	Matt Darr (Sr.)	**PR** 23	Cameron Sutton (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Justin Worley, 196-109-1,239-8, 10 TDs
Rushing: Marlin Lane, 101 att., 534 yds., 4 TDs
Receiving: Alton Howard, 44 rec., 388 yds., 3 TDs
Tackles: A.J. Johnson, 106
Sacks: Jordan Williams, 1.5
Interceptions: Brian Randolph, 4

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

VANDERBILT COMMODORES

NATIONAL FORECAST **44**
SEC EAST PREDICTION **6**

Head Coach: Derek Mason
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: First Season
Offensive Coordinator: Karl Dorrell
Defensive Coordinator: David Kotulski
Nashville, TN
Vanderbilt Stadium (40,350)

2014 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 6-6, 2-6 (SEC)

August	
28	Temple
September	
6	Ole Miss
13	Massachusetts
20	South Carolina
27	at Kentucky
October	
4	at Georgia
11	Charleston Southern
25	at Missouri
November	
1	Old Dominion
8	Florida
22	at Mississippi State
29	Tennessee

2013 RESULTS (9-4, 4-4)

Aug. 29	Ole Miss	L	35–39
Sept. 7	Austin Peay	W	38–3
Sept. 14	at South Carolina	L	25–35
Sept. 21	at Massachusetts	W	24–7
Sept. 28	UAB	W	52–24
Oct. 5	Missouri	L	28–51
Oct. 19	Georgia	W	31–27
Oct. 26	at Texas A&M	L	24–56
Nov. 9	at Florida	W	34–17
Nov. 16	Kentucky	W	22–6
Nov. 23	at Tennessee	W	14–10
Nov. 30	Wake Forest	W	23–21
Jan. 4	vs. Houston #	W	41–24

#BBVA Compass Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Nifae Lealao, DE, Sacramento, CA
2. Emmanuel Smith, DB, Murfreesboro, TN
3. Dallas Rivers, RB, Stone Mountain, GA
4. Trent Sherfield, DB, Danville, IL
5. Wade Freebeck, QB, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
6. Cole Hardin, OL, Florence, AL
7. Ronald Monroe, ATH, Sugarland, TX
8. Bryce Lewis, DB, Lilburn, GA
9. Bailey Granier, OL, Galliano, LA
10. Caleb Scott, WR, Suwanee, GA

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	30.1 ppg	8	56
Rushing	139.0 ypg	14	92
Passing	227.5 ypg	9	67
Total	366.5 ypg	10	93
Defense	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
Scoring	24.6 ppg	8	46
Rushing	147.8 ypg	5	40
Passing	206.9 ypg	6	23
Total	354.8 ypg	6	23
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
+6	+0.5	4	29

OFFENSE Vanderbilt must replace a pair of wide receivers who accounted for 92 percent of the team's production at the position, but the primary focus for first-year coach Derek Mason during preseason camp will be to identify a starting quarterback. Patton Robinette played a key role in some great moments last season — a comeback win over Georgia, a road victory at Florida, the winning touchdown at Tennessee — but the sophomore is far from a lock to earn the starting assignment. Robinette, a good athlete who lacks elite arm strength, will face stiff competition from redshirt freshman Johnny McCrary and Stephen Rivers, a transfer from LSU.

Whoever wins the job — and don't be surprised if it's Rivers — will be lacking proven playmakers at the wide receiver position. The new staff plans on incorporating tight ends (think Stanford) and running backs in the passing game, but the Dores will need some young wide receivers to take on much larger roles in 2014.

Mason is looking for big tailbacks to pound the ball between the tackles. He inherited what has to be the smallest running back duo in the SEC — Jerron Seymour (5'7", 200) and Brian Kimbrow (5'8", 185). Despite this duo's shortcomings, the running game should be improved after a lackluster performance last fall.

Mason singled out the line as the strength of the offense during the spring. The Dores must replace All-SEC tackle Wesley Johnson, but otherwise this unit returns largely intact.

STAT CORNER

279.5

Yards per game averaged by the Commodores in their four SEC wins. They averaged 372.8 yards in their four conference losses.

DEFENSE Vanderbilt's move to the 3-4 has forced some reshuffling on the front seven. Last year's defensive ends are now outside linebackers. Last year's defensive tackles are either ends or nose guards. The biggest beneficiary of the new scheme could be Vince Taylor, a 6'2", 310-pound senior. "Vince will be as good as any nose (guard) or interior player in this conference," Mason says.

Mason and the defensive staff spent the spring reprogramming the Commodores' talented corps of inside linebackers. "These guys need to be thumpers," he says. "(Last year), they were edge players. They ran around blocks. That is not what we do." Kyle Woestmann and Caleb Azubike, who were pass-rushing ends last season, should make a smooth transition to outside linebacker.

The Commodores must replace four seniors in the secondary who combined to start 110 games over the last four seasons. There is, however, a decent amount of experience returning. Many of the young defensive backs were forced into duty late last season due to injuries. Paris Head and Torren McGaster gained the most experience at corner last year, but Darrius Sims also saw some action as a true freshman. Mason also has been pleased with redshirt freshmen Taurean Ferguson and Tre Bell. Oren Burks was recruited as a linebacker but has been moved to safety. He received praise from Mason throughout the spring.

SPECIALISTS Finding a reliable replacement for standout placekicker Carey Spear will be of paramount importance. Redshirt freshman Tommy Openshaw is atop the depth chart for now. Taylor Hudson handled most of the punting last year but lost his job late in the season to Colby Cooke.

FINAL ANALYSIS Mason is in uncharted territory for a first-year football coach at Vanderbilt. Unlike the vast majority of men who have occupied his seat, Mason is not facing a massive rebuild. The former defensive coordinator at Stanford inherits a program that has won 18 games over the last two seasons and been to three straight bowl games. There is enough talent on the roster to extend the postseason streak to four, but some playmakers need to emerge on offense, and the defense must adapt to a very different style of play for this team to finish higher than sixth in the SEC East.

JERRON SEYMOUR

Paul J. Levy/Athlon Sports

THE QUOTE

"The front seven will be solid and can compete each week in the SEC. The secondary is the big question mark."

— An opposing SEC assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	84	Jordan Cunningham (So.)	16	Gerald Perry (Fr.)
WR	19	C.J. Duncan (Fr.)	86	Latevius Rayford (So.)
LT	**50**	**Andrew Jelks (So.)**	72	Sean Dowling (Fr.)
LG	**53**	**Jake Bernstein (Jr.)**	64	Delando Crooks (Fr.)
C	**57**	**Joe Townsend (Sr.)**	77	Spencer Pulley (Jr.)
RG	**77**	**Spencer Pulley (Jr.)**	56	Barrett Gouger (So.)
RT	52	Andrew Bridges (Sr.)	78	Kevin McCoy (So.)
TE	81	Steven Scheu (Jr.)	83	Nathan Marcus (Fr.)
QB		Stephen Rivers (Jr.)	2	Johnny McCrary (Fr.)
FB	42	Kellen Williams (Sr.)		
RB	**3**	**Jerron Seymour (Jr.)**	25	Brian Kimbrow (Jr.)

DEFENSE (3)

DE	69	Adam Butler (So.)		Nifae Lealao (Fr.)
NG	**53**	**Vince Taylor (Sr.)**	44	Barron Dixon (Sr.)
DE	44	Barron Dixon (Sr.)	74	Jay Woods (Fr.)
OLB	**92**	**Kyle Woestmann (Sr.)**	45	Stephen Weatherly (So.)
ILB	**35**	**Darreon Herring (Jr.)**	41	Zach Cunningham (Fr.)
ILB	48	Nigel Bowden (Fr.)	13	Jake Sealand (Jr.)
OLB	55	Caleb Azubike (Jr.)	49	Jonathan Wynn (Fr.)
CB	4	Tre Bell (Fr.)	6	Darrius Sims (So.)
CB	21	Paris Head (So.)	5	Torren McGaster (So.)
S	20	Oren Burks (Fr.)	27	Jahmel McIntosh (Jr.)
S	32	Andrew Williamson (Jr.)	14	Ryan White (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	17	Tommy Openshaw (Fr.)	**KR**	6	Darrius Sims (So.)
P	29	Taylor Hudson (Jr.)	**PR**	19	C.J. Duncan (Fr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Patton Robinette, 88-46-642-5, 4 TDs
Rushing: Jerron Seymour, 164 att., 716 yds., 14 TDs
Receiving: Jerron Seymour, 19 rec., 126 yds., 0 TDs
Tackles: Darreon Herring, 84
Sacks: Kyle Woestmann, 6
Interceptions: Paris Head, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

ALABAMA CRIMSON TIDE

NATIONAL FORECAST 2
SEC WEST PREDICTION 1

Head Coach: Nick Saban
Record at School: 79-15 (7 years)
Career Record: 170-57-1 (18 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Lane Kiffin
Defensive Coordinator: Kirby Smart
Tuscaloosa, AL
Bryant-Denny Stadium (101,821)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 12-1, 7-1 (SEC)

August		
30	vs. West Virginia #	
September		
6	Florida Atlantic	
13	Southern Miss	
20	Florida	
October		
4	at Ole Miss	
11	at Arkansas	
18	Texas A&M	
25	at Tennessee	
November		
8	at LSU	
15	Mississippi State	
22	Western Carolina	
29	Auburn	

#Atlanta, GA

2013 RESULTS (11-2, 7-1)

Aug. 31	vs. Virginia Tech %	W	35-10
Sept. 14	at Texas A&M	W	49-42
Sept. 21	Colorado State	W	31-6
Sept. 28	Ole Miss	W	25-0
Oct. 5	Georgia State	W	45-3
Oct. 12	at Kentucky	W	48-7
Oct. 19	Arkansas	W	52-0
Oct. 26	Tennessee	W	45-10
Nov. 9	LSU	W	38-17
Nov. 16	at Mississippi State	W	20-7
Nov. 23	Chattanooga	W	49-0
Nov. 30	at Auburn	L	28-34
Jan. 2	vs. Oklahoma #	L	31-45

%Atlanta #Sugar Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Cam Robinson, OL, West Monroe, LA
2. Da'Shawn Hand, DE, Woodbridge, VA
3. Tony Brown, CB, Beaumont, TX
4. Marlon Humphrey, CB, Hoover, AL
5. Rashaan Evans, LB, Auburn, AL
6. Bo Scarbrough, ATH, Northport, AL
7. Christian Miller, LB, Columbia, SC
8. Laurence "Hootie" Jones, S, Monroe, LA
9. Ronnie Clark, LB/S, Calera, AL
10. Ross Pierschbacher, OL, Cedar Falls, IA

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	38.2 ppg	4	17
Rushing	205.6 ypg	4	25
Passing	248.5 ypg	7	49
Total	454.1 ypg	6	33
Defense	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
Scoring	13.9 ppg	1	4
Rushing	106.2 ypg	1	7
Passing	180.3 ypg	2	11
Total	286.5 ypg	1	5
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
+2	+0.2	5	48

OFFENSE Alabama's competition to replace AJ McCarron is expected to last all the way through fall camp and maybe a few games into the season. The highly anticipated arrival of Florida State transfer and former Jameis Winston backup, Jacob Coker, who will join the team over the summer and has two years of eligibility remaining, gives Alabama presumed frontrunner. His top competition will come from senior Blake Sims, an athletic, dual-threat quarterback who started his Alabama career as a running back and drew constant praise from Nick Saban throughout the spring.

Tailback T.J. Yeldon has been rock solid over the past two years, and he'll be counted on again for another big season. His workload might not be as heavy, though, as the emergence of Derrick Henry makes an evenly split, two-man backfield seem realistic. Don't forget about junior Kenyan Drake, either; he has game-breaking speed and is a bona fide weapon in space.

Junior wide receiver Amari Cooper is poised for big-time production. He'll have a deep supporting cast around him, as DeAndrew White passed on the NFL Draft to return as the likely No. 2 option in Alabama's passing game.

Senior Leon Brown looks to be the answer for the departed Anthony Steen at right guard, but the left tackle competition wasn't resolved by A-Day. Promising true freshman Cam Robinson could follow in the footsteps of Andre Smith and start the season opener, but he'll have to beat out third-year sophomore Brandon Greene.

STAT CORNER

13.9

Points per game allowed by Alabama in 2013, the Tide's worst average since 2008. It was, however, still fourth in the country.

DEFENSE On the defensive line, it starts with sophomore end A'Shawn Robinson, who led the Crimson Tide with 5.5 sacks as a true freshman. There's no shortage of options on the opposite side of the line, as junior college transfers Jarran Reed and D.J. Pettway and sophomores Jonathan Allen and Dalvin Tomlinson are poised for regular work. Senior Brandon Ivory returns for another season at nose guard, where he will be spelled by junior Darren Lake.

There's no replacing Butkus Award winner C.J. Mosley, but senior Trey DePriest has embraced the unenviable task. The search for his running mate in the middle of Alabama's defense could result in a three-man rotation at the two spots with junior Reggie Ragland and talented sophomore Reuben Foster. On the outside, junior Dillon Lee's spring was marred by an arrest for driving under the influence, but he appears best positioned to replace Adrian Hubbard.

There's one solid answer and many more questions in Alabama's secondary, as junior safety Landon Collins, one of the best in the nation at his position, is the lone returning starter. The uncertain status of Eddie Jackson, who had emerged as the top corner in spring ball before he injured his knee, means juniors Bradley Sylve and Cyrus Jones will need to step up. At free safety, junior Geno Smith and fifth-year senior Nick Perry are the likely answers.

SPECIALISTS With Cade Foster gone, Adam Griffith is poised to make a whole new set of memories as Alabama's top — and only — option at kicker. Replacing Cody Mandell, one of the nation's best punters in 2013, will be an even tougher task for freshman JK Scott, who joins the team over the summer. While there's uncertainty at the specialist positions, there's nothing of the sort at returner, where Christion Jones will reside for one more year.

FINAL ANALYSIS Alabama might not enter the season as the odds-on favorite to win the national championship, and that's probably a good thing for a team that lost its identity and grew complacent when it had a shot to win three in a row. Though questions abound on both sides of the ball, the Crimson Tide certainly have the talent to contend for another set of championships.

T.J. YELDON

THE QUOTE

"Obviously a lot hinges on how well (quarterback Jacob Coker) does coming in — will he make or break the season?"

— An opposing SEC assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	**9**	**Amari Cooper (Jr.)**	7	Cam Sims (Fr.)
WR	2	DeAndrew White (Sr.)	8	Robert Foster (Fr.)
WR	**22**	**Christion Jones (Sr.)**	5	Chris Black (So.)
LT	74	Cam Robinson (Fr.)	58	Brandon Greene (So.)
LG	77	Arie Kouandjio (Sr.)	68	Isaac Luatua (Jr.)
C	**70**	**Ryan Kelly (Jr.)**	69	Paul Waldrop (Jr.)
RG	72	Leon Brown (Sr.)	50	Alphonse Taylor (So.)
RT	**79**	**Austin Shepherd (Sr.)**	64	Grant Hill (So.)
TE	88	O.J. Howard (So.)	**84**	**Brian Vogler (Sr.)**
QB		Jacob Coker (Jr.)	6	Blake Sims (Sr.)
RB	**4**	**T.J. Yeldon (Jr.)**	27	Derrick Henry (So.)

DEFENSE (3)

LE	90	Jarran Reed (Jr.)	93	Jonathan Allen (So.)
NG	**99**	**Brandon Ivory (Sr.)**	95	Darren Lake (Jr.)
RE	86	A'Shawn Robinson (So.)	57	D.J. Pettway (Jr.)
OLB	30	Denzel Devall (Jr.)	7	Ryan Anderson (So.)
ILB	**33**	**Trey DePriest (Sr.)**	11	Shaun Dion Hamilton (Fr.)
ILB	9	Reuben Foster (So.)	18	Reggie Ragland (Jr.)
OLB	47	Xzavier Dickson (Sr.)	25	Dillon Lee (Jr.)
CB	16	Bradley Sylve (Jr.)	21	Maurice Smith (So.)
CB	5	Cyrus Jones (Jr.)	2	Tony Brown (Fr.)
SS	**26**	**Landon Collins (Jr.)**	20	Jarrick Williams (Sr.)
FS	24	Geno Smith (Jr.)	27	Nick Perry (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	99	Adam Griffith (So.)	**KR**	22	Christion Jones (Sr.)
P		JK Scott (Fr.)	**PR**	22	Christion Jones (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Blake Sims, 29-18-167-0, 2 TDs
Rushing: T.J. Yeldon, 207 att., 1,235 yds., 14 TDs
Receiving: Amari Cooper, 45 rec., 736 yds., 4 TDs
Tackles: Landon Collins, 70
Sacks: A'Shawn Robinson, 5.5
Interceptions: Landon Collins, 2; Cyrus Jones, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Chris Covatta/Athlon Sports

ARKANSAS RAZORBACKS

NATIONAL FORECAST 63
SEC WEST PREDICTION 7

Head Coach: Bret Bielema
Record at School: 3-9 (1 year)
Career Record: 71-33 (8 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Jim Chaney
Defensive Coordinator: Robb Smith
Fayetteville, AR
Donald W. Reynolds Razorback Stadium (72,000)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 4-8, 1-7 (SEC)

August	
30	at Auburn
September	
6	Nicholls State
13	at Texas Tech
20	Northern Illinois
27	vs. Texas A&M #
October	
11	Alabama
18	vs. Georgia %
25	UAB
November	
1	at Mississippi State
15	LSU
22	Ole Miss
29	at Missouri

#Arlington, TX %Little Rock, AR

2013 RESULTS (3-9, 0-8)

Aug. 31	UL Lafayette	W	34-14
Sept. 7	vs. Samford %	W	31-21
Sept. 14	Southern Miss	W	24-3
Sept. 21	at Rutgers	L	24-28
Sept. 28	Texas A&M	L	33-45
Oct. 5	at Florida	L	10-30
Oct. 12	South Carolina	L	7-52
Oct. 19	at Alabama	L	0-52
Nov. 2	Auburn	L	17-35
Nov. 9	at Ole Miss	L	24-34
Nov. 23	vs. Miss. State % (ot)	L	17-24
Nov. 29	at LSU	L	27-31

%Little Rock

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Bijhon Jackson, DT, El Dorado, AR
2. Brian Wallace, OL, Florissant, MO
3. JoJo Robinson, WR, Miami, FL
4. Frank Ragnow, OL, Chanhassen, MN
5. Jovan Pruitt, OL, Dallas, TX
6. Rafe Peavey, QB, Bolivar, MO
7. Henre' Toliver, CB, Marrero, LA
8. Sebastian Tretola, OL, San Bernardino, CA*
9. Kendrick Edwards, WR, Miami, FL
10. Jared Cornelius, WR, Shreveport, LA

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	20.7 ppg	12	105
Rushing	208.7 ypg	3	21
Passing	148.5 ypg	14	114
Total	357.2 ypg	11	99
Defense	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
Scoring	30.8 ppg	12	88
Rushing	178.4 ypg	11	78
Passing	235.0 ypg	11	72
Total	413.4 ypg	9	76
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
-9	-0.8	14	111

OFFENSE Brandon Allen's lackluster passing numbers in his first year as the starter shouldn't have come as a surprise. His ascension to the No. 1 spot on the depth chart coincided with the loss of high-end talent at the receiver position and the introduction of a run-first philosophy by new coach Bret Bielema. Allen completed 49.6 percent of his passes, and his accuracy fell to 47.7 percent in SEC games, worst among conference starters. Allen, who played with an ailing throwing shoulder most of the season, should produce better results this fall. Both his backups are untested — redshirt freshman Austin Allen (his brother) and true freshman Rafe Peavey.

Alex Collins led the nation's freshmen with 1,026 rushing yards, joining Darren McFadden as the only Arkansas freshmen to hit the 1,000-yard mark. Collins did it while sharing time with Jonathan Williams, who compiled 900 rushing yards and averaged 6.0 yards per carry. Both return, with help from speedster Korliss Marshall and big fullback Kody Walker. A better passing attack should help the run game.

Tight end Hunter Henry leads a pass-catching crew that includes senior Demetrius Wilson — who is back from a knee injury — Keon Hatcher, D'Arthur Cowan and tight end Jeremy Sprinkle.

The Hogs are trying to stockpile talent on the offensive line, which will feature senior right tackle Brey Cook and standout sophomores in left tackle Dan Skipper and right guard Denver Kirkland.

STAT CORNER

-4.2

Arkansas' starting field position margin. Offense and special teams did the Hogs' struggling defense few favors.

DEFENSE Robb Smith, previously with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Rutgers, will be Arkansas' fourth defensive coordinator in the past four seasons. Smith inherited a unit that brings back four starters after ranking 76th nationally in total defense. The lone holdover assistant is linebackers coach Randy Shannon. Smith seems more willing to attack with blitzes than the previous defensive staff, which might help the Hogs improve on their paltry takeaway count of 14.

The pass rush should be solid with veteran end Trey Flowers taking on a leading role. Sophomore ends Deatrich Wise, Brandon Lewis and JaMichael Winston played well in the spring, and tackle Darius Philon could be ready for a breakout year alongside 343-pound run-stuffer DeMarcus Hodge.

The Hogs have struggled at the linebacker position in recent years. The expectation by the staff is that seniors Braylon Mitchell and Martrell Spaight and sophomore Brooks Ellis will play faster, be better run-stoppers and more authoritative tacklers.

Arkansas has a bounty of options at cornerback, where Tevin Mitchel is trying to rebound from a rough season, with help from Carroll Washington, Will Hines and others. The numbers at safety are still thin, but veterans Alan Turner and Rohan Gaines should pick it up a notch, and redshirt freshman De'Andre Coley could be the kind of hard-hitting ball-hawk the Razorbacks have lacked.

SPECIALISTS Australian Sam Irwin-Hill's introduction to major-college football was action-packed. The ambidextrous punter ranked 13th in the nation with a 44.3-yard average, and he triggered several fourth-down gambles, running and throwing, with mixed results. The Razorbacks gave a scholarship to Texas legend Cole Hedlund, hoping he can follow Zach Hocker as the next four-year kicker in the program.

FINAL ANALYSIS Arkansas should be improved on both sides of the ball, but that doesn't mean another winless SEC season is out of the question for the Razorbacks, who are still trying to stabilize and upgrade their roster after the disruption of the Bobby Petrino affair. Qualifying for a bowl berth would be a significant step in Year 2 under Bielema, as Arkansas chugs forward with a difficult rebuild.

ALEX COLLINS

Margaret Bowles/Athlon Sports

THE QUOTE

"There were guys on that roster they wouldn't have taken when (Bret Bielema) was at Wisconsin. So he needs time to get that done."

— An opposing SEC assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	85	Demetrius Wilson (Sr.)	6	D'Arthur Cowan (Jr.)
WR	4	Keon Hatcher (Jr.)	1	Jared Cornelius (Fr.)
LT	**76**	**Dan Skipper (So.)**	68	Austin Beck (Jr.)
LG	75	Luke Charpentier (Sr.)	50	Grady Ollison (Jr.)
C	65	Mitch Smothers (Jr.)	69	Cordale Boyd (So.)
RG	**55**	**Denver Kirkland (So.)**	67	Johnathan McClure (Jr.)
RT	**74**	**Brey Cook (Sr.)**		Brian Wallace (Fr.)
TE	**84**	**Hunter Henry (So.)**	83	Jeremy Sprinkle (So.)
QB	10	Brandon Allen (Jr.)	8	Austin Allen (Fr.)
FB	24	Kody Walker (Jr.)	40	Patrick Arinze (Sr.)
TB	**32**	**Jonathan Williams (Jr.)**	3	Alex Collins (So.)

DEFENSE (4)

DE	**86**	**Trey Flowers (Sr.)**	6	JaMichael Winston (So.)
DT	91	Darius Philon (So.)	94	Taiwan Johnson (So.)
NT	93	DeMarcus Hodge (Jr.)		Bijhon Jackson (Fr.)
DE	48	Deatrich Wise (So.)	99	Brandon Lewis (So.)
WLB	47	Martrell Spaight (Sr.)	7	Tiquention Coleman (Sr.)
MLB	51	Brooks Ellis (So.)	22	Otha Peters (Jr.)
SLB	**34**	**Braylon Mitchell (Sr.)**	52	Daunte Carr (Sr.)
CB	21	Carroll Washington (Sr.)	29	Jared Collins (So.)
CB	**23**	**Tevin Mitchel (Sr.)**	9	Will Hines (Jr.)
FS	26	Rohan Gaines (Jr.)	13	Davyon McKinney (Jr.)
SS	**27**	**Alan Turner (Sr.)**	20	De'Andre Coley (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K		Cole Hedlund (Fr.)	KR	33	Korliss Marshall (So.)
P	92	Sam Irwin-Hill (Sr.)	PR	85	Demetrius Wilson (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Brandon Allen, 258-128-1,552-10, 13 TDs
Rushing: Alex Collins, 190 att., 1,026 yds., 4 TDs
Receiving: Hunter Henry, 28 rec., 409 yds., 4 TDs
Tackles: Alan Turner, 97
Sacks: Trey Flowers, 5.0
Interceptions: Alan Turner, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

AUBURN TIGERS

NATIONAL FORECAST 5
SEC WEST PREDICTION 2

Head Coach: Gus Malzahn
Record at School: 12-2 (1 year)
Career Record: 21-5 (2 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Rhett Lashlee
Co-Defensive Coordinators: Ellis Johnson, Charlie Harbison
Auburn, AL
Jordan-Hare Stadium (87,451)

2014 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 10-2, 6-2 (SEC)

August	
30	Arkansas
September	
6	San Jose State
18	at Kansas State
27	Louisiana Tech
October	
4	LSU
11	at Mississippi State
25	South Carolina
November	
1	at Ole Miss
8	Texas A&M
15	at Georgia
22	Samford
29	at Alabama

2013 RESULTS (12-2, 7-1)

Aug. 31	Washington State	W	31-24
Sept. 7	Arkansas State	W	38-9
Sept. 14	Mississippi State	W	24-20
Sept. 21	at LSU	L	21-35
Oct. 5	Ole Miss	W	30-22
Oct. 12	Western Carolina	W	62-3
Oct. 19	at Texas A&M	W	45-41
Oct. 26	Florida Atlantic	W	45-10
Nov. 2	at Arkansas	W	35-17
Nov. 9	at Tennessee	W	55-23
Nov. 16	Georgia	W	43-38
Nov. 30	Alabama	W	34-28
Dec. 7	vs. Missouri %	W	59-42
Jan. 6	vs. Florida State #	L	31-34

%Atlanta #BCS National Championship

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Roc Thomas, RB, Anniston, AL
2. Tre' Williams, LB, Mobile, AL
3. Braden Smith, OL, Olathe, KS
4. D'haquille Williams, WR, LaPlace, LA*
5. Nick Ruffin, CB, Duluth, GA
6. Justin Thornton, DL, Prichard, AL
7. Kalvaraz Bessent, CB, Kingsland, GA
8. Stephen Roberts, S, Opelika, AL
9. Sean White, QB, Boca Raton, FL
10. Dontavius Russell, DT, Carrollton, GA

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	39.5 ppg	2	12
Rushing	328.3 ypg	1	1
Passing	173.0 ypg	11	106
Total	501.3 ypg	2	11
Defense	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
Scoring	24.7 ppg	9	48
Rushing	162.1 ypg	10	62
Passing	258.6 ypg	13	100
Total	420.7 ypg	12	86
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
0	0.0	9	61

OFFENSE For the first time in nine seasons at the collegiate level, Gus Malzahn has a returning starter at quarterback. Not only that, but Nick Marshall seems poised to become the SEC's top quarterback in 2014. Marshall was a dynamic threat in his first year on campus, completing 59.4 percent of his passes for 1,976 yards, 14 touchdowns and six interceptions, while also rushing for 1,068 yards and 12 touchdowns, but the Tigers want to throw more in his second season.

With the loss of Heisman Trophy finalist Tre Mason and his 1,816 yards, all eyes are on the race to be his replacement in the nation's best rushing attack, but the Tigers have two capable seniors returning in Cameron Artis-Payne and Corey Grant, who each rushed for more than 600 yards. They will face competition from redshirt freshman Peyton Barber, who's the biggest of the group at 225 pounds, and true freshman Roc Thomas, a five-star recruit. There is no clear replacement for valuable H-back Jay Prosch.

At wide receiver, Sammie Coates emerged as a go-to target and one of the nation's best deep threats, but the addition of junior college transfer D'haquille Williams could make Coates even more dangerous as the two lead a deep group of young receivers that includes Ricardo Louis, Quan Bray and Marcus Davis, as well as tight end C.J. Uzomah.

Four starters — Reese Dismukes at center, Freshman All-SEC pick Alex Kozan at left guard, Chad Slade at right guard and Avery Young at right tackle — return to one of the nation's top offensive lines. The real question is who will replace Greg Robinson at left tackle. Patrick Miller will get his chance, but keep an eye on leukemia survivor Shon Coleman, a former five-star prospect in the class of 2010 before his cancer diagnosis.

STAT CORNER

+1.65

Change in the Tigers' offensive yards per play from 2012 to '13. Auburn and Missouri were only the teams nationally over +1.45.

DEFENSE Auburn's defense finished 86th in the country last season, giving up 420.7 yards per game, but the Tigers have a chance to be much better in Ellis Johnson's second year at the helm, even with the key losses of defensive end Dee Ford and cornerback Chris Davis.

Ford's 10.5 sacks will be hard to replace, but Carl Lawson is a natural fit to fill his shoes after coming up with four sacks as a true freshman in the SEC last season, and either Josh Holsey or Jonathon Mincy will be able to move into Davis' spot on the boundary and play the physical brand of man-to-man coverage Auburn likes. Montravius Adams is expected to be a monster in the middle of the line, teaming with senior Gabe Wright inside.

But more important than anything, this will be the first time in three years that Auburn's defense won't have to learn a new scheme under a new coordinator, and the second season in a coordinator's system is usually the year when a unit makes a significant jump.

SPECIALISTS After years of stability on special teams, Auburn has to replace every key specialist, and only Grant at kickoff return brings experience to the role. Redshirt freshmen Daniel Carlson (kicker) and Jimmy Hutchinson (punter) will be thrown into the fire in place of Cody Parkey and Steven Clark, and the Tigers will hold an open competition to replace Davis, who finished third in the nation in punt return average.

FINAL ANALYSIS Auburn's magical turnaround captivated the country last year, sparked by the Prayer in Jordan-Hare, Davis' Kick Six in the Iron Bowl and an improbable run to the BCS National Championship Game that tied for the biggest turnaround in college football history. Malzahn's Tigers won't sneak up on anybody this season, but Auburn is well-placed to make a run at a spot in the College Football Playoff.

NICK MARSHALL

Layne Murdoch Jr./ Athlon Sports

THE QUOTE

"Up front, I think they'll have the best defensive linemen. Montravius Adams, he's gonna be the next Glenn Dorsey."

— An opposing SEC assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	18	**Sammie Coates (Jr.)**	8	Tony Stevens (So.)
WR	1	D'haquille Williams (Jr.)	5	Ricardo Louis (Jr.)
WR	4	**Quan Bray (Sr.)**	80	Marcus Davis (So.)
LT	72	Shon Coleman (So.)	51	Patrick Miller (Jr.)
LG	63	**Alex Kozan (So.)**	53	Devonte Danzey (Jr.)
C	50	**Reese Dismukes (Sr.)**	52	Xavier Dampeer (Jr.)
RG	62	**Chad Slade (Sr.)**	56	Avery Young (So.)
RT	56	**Avery Young (So.)**	51	Patrick Miller (Jr.)
TE	81	C.J. Uzomah (Sr.)	11	Brandon Fulse (Sr.)
QB	14	**Nick Marshall (Sr.)**	6	Jeremy Johnson (So.)
RB	44	Cameron Artis-Payne (Sr.)	20	Corey Grant (Sr.)

DEFENSE (6)

DE	55	Carl Lawson (So.)		DaVonte Lambert (Jr.)
DT	90	**Gabe Wright (Sr.)**	54	Jeffrey Whitaker (Sr.)
DT	1	Montravius Adams (So.)	50	Ben Bradley (Sr)
DE	10	**LaDarius Owens (Sr.)**	97	Elijah Daniel (So.)
LB	8	**Cassanova McKinzy (Jr.)**		Tre' Williams (Fr.)
LB	17	Kris Frost (Jr.)	47	Cameron Toney (Fr.)
STAR	27	**Robenson Therezie (Sr.)**	26	Justin Garrett (Jr.)
CB	15	Joshua Holsey (Jr.)	25	Trovon Reed (Sr.)
CB	6	**Jonathon Mincy (Sr.)**	3	Jonathan Jones (Jr.)
FS	9	**Jermaine Whitehead (Sr.)**	23	Johnathan Ford (So.)
BS	24	Derrick Moncrief (Jr.)	29	Brandon King (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	38	Daniel Carlson (Fr.)	KR 20	Corey Grant (Sr.)
P	28	Jimmy Hutchinson (Fr.)	PR 27	Robenson Therezie (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Nick Marshall, 239-142-1,976-6, 14 TDs
Rushing: Nick Marshall, 172 att., 1,068 yds., 12 TDs
Receiving: Sammie Coates, 42 rec., 902 yds., 7 TDs
Tackles: Cassanova McKinzy, 75
Sacks: Carl Lawson, 4.0
Interceptions: Robenson Therezie, 4

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

LSU TIGERS

NATIONAL FORECAST 19
SEC WEST PREDICTION 4

Head Coach: Les Miles
Record at School: 95-24 (9 years)
Career Record: 123-45 (13 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Cam Cameron
Defensive Coordinator: John Chavis
Baton Rouge, LA
Tiger Stadium (100,000)

2014 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 8-4, 4-4 (SEC)

August	
30	vs. Wisconsin #
September	
6	Sam Houston State
13	ULM
20	Mississippi State
27	New Mexico State
October	
4	at Auburn
11	at Florida
18	Kentucky
25	Ole Miss
November	
8	Alabama
15	at Arkansas
27	at Texas A&M

#Houston, TX

2013 RESULTS (10-3, 5-3)

Aug. 31	vs. TCU %	W	37-27
Sept. 7	UAB	W	56-17
Sept. 14	Kent State	W	45-13
Sept. 21	Auburn	W	35-21
Sept. 28	at Georgia	L	41-44
Oct. 5	at Mississippi State	W	59-26
Oct. 12	Florida	W	17-6
Oct. 19	at Ole Miss	L	24-27
Oct. 26	Furman	W	48-16
Nov. 9	at Alabama	L	17-38
Nov. 23	Texas A&M	W	34-10
Nov. 29	Arkansas	W	31-27
Jan. 1	vs. Iowa #	W	21-14

%Arlington #Outback Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Leonard Fournette, RB, New Orleans, LA
2. Malachi Dupre, WR, New Orleans, LA
3. Clifton Garrett, LB Plainfield, IL
4. Jamal Adams, S, Lewisville, TX
5. Ed Paris Jr., DB, Arlington, TX
6. Travonte Valentine, DT, Hialeah, FL
7. Brandon Harris, QB, Shreveport, LA
8. Trey Quinn, WR, Lake Charles, LA
9. Garrett Brumfield, OG, Baton Rouge, LA
10. Davon Godchaux, DL, Plaquemine, LA

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	35.8 ppg	6	23
Rushing	202.3 ypg	5	29
Passing	251.0 ypg	6	44
Total	453.3 ypg	7	35
Defense	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
Scoring	22.0 ppg	4	21
Rushing	143.2 ypg	3	35
Passing	197.5 ypg	4	13
Total	340.7 ypg	3	15
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
0	0.0	9	61

OFFENSE LSU's leading passer (Zach Mettenberger), leading rusher (Jeremy Hill) and three leading receivers (Odell Beckham Jr., Jarvis Landry and Hill) from 2013 will be playing on Sundays in 2014, so the Tigers will have to lean heavily on their dominant offensive line and stingy defense early.

It's been awhile since LSU had a full-blown quarterback battle, and the competition between sophomore Anthony Jennings and true freshman Brandon Harris could extend into the regular season. Regardless, it's been awhile since LSU was this young at quarterback, and both players are likely to see snaps this season. Jennings and Harris offer vastly different skill sets than Mettenberger, a pure drop-back passer who excelled last season under coordinator Cam Cameron's tutelage. Jennings and Harris are skilled athletes who do their best work on the move.

Heralded running back recruit Leonard Fournette is too talented to sit for long. By midseason, he should see the majority of carries. The receiver corps is talented but woefully inexperienced. The Tigers desperately need either sophomore Travin Dural or newcomers John Diarse, Trey Quinn and Malachi Dupre to emerge as a playmaker.

With so little experience at the skill positions, look for the Tigers to lean heavily on their talented, experienced offensive line. Senior left tackle La'el Collins leads four returning starters.

STAT CORNER

6.9

LSU's average yards per play in 2013, third-best in the SEC. How far might that fall without Zach Mettenberger, Jeremy Hill, Odell Beckham Jr. and Jarvis Landry?

DEFENSE The Tigers must replace several key players who bolted early for the NFL Draft, but there's more than enough returning talent and experience to once again rank among the SEC's stingiest units.

In terms of depth and sheer athleticism, few teams anywhere can match the Tigers across the front four. Ends Danielle Hunter and Jermauria Rasco will give the Tigers two of the top edge-rushers in the SEC if they can become more consistent. The playmaking Hunter (6'6") appears primed for a breakout season. Defensive tackle remains a question mark, but Quentin Thomas, Chris LaCouture and a trio of talented redshirt freshmen in Maquedius Bain, Greg Gilmore and Frank Herron could provide answers.

The linebacker play was below LSU's standards last season, so coordinator John Chavis shook up the ranks in the offseason by switching several players to new positions. The six returning lettermen combined to produce just one takeaway, so there's room and need for major improvement. The staff is waiting for the light bulb to turn on for Kendell Beckwith, a former star recruit with size, speed and explosiveness to dominate on the second level.

The secondary is led by promising sophomore cornerbacks Tre'Davious White and Rashard Robinson. Both are former top recruits who should uphold the school's tradition of outstanding secondary play. Safety is a question mark.

SPECIALISTS Big improvement is expected from punter Jamie Keehn. His leg isn't quite as strong as fellow Australian and former LSU punter Brad Wing, but he might be more consistent in the end. Colby Delahoussaye is solid if unspectacular on kicks. The Tigers must find a replacement for Beckham on returns. Dural and White will get the first crack.

FINAL ANALYSIS In many ways, this team should resemble the 2011 team that rode a power rushing attack and dominant defense to the BCS title game. If Les Miles' heralded recruiting class lives up to expectations — particularly explosive offensive playmakers like Fournette, Quinn and Dupre — the Tigers should be capable of posting another 10-win season. But with so many new faces at key positions, it would be surprising if LSU could unseat Alabama or Auburn for supremacy in the brutally tough SEC West.

TRE'DAVIOUS WHITE

Harrison McClary/Athlon Sports

THE QUOTE

"If they don't get better up front (on defense), their team won't be better. There really wasn't one from last year that stood out."

— An opposing SEC assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	83	Travin Dural (So.)	15	Quantavius Leslie (Sr.)
WR	9	John Diarse (Fr.)		Trey Quinn (Fr.)
LT	**70**	**La'el Collins (Sr.)**	71	Jonah Austin (Jr.)
LG	**74**	**Vadal Alexander (Jr.)**	63	K.J. Malone (Fr.)
C	**55**	**Elliott Porter (Sr.)**	77	Ethan Pocic (So.)
RG	69	Hoko Fanaika (Sr.)	75	Evan Washington (Sr.)
RT	**65**	**Jerald Hawkins (So.)**	76	Josh Boutte (So.)
TE	**85**	**Dillon Gordon (Jr.)**	89	Desean Smith (So.)
QB	10	Anthony Jennings (So.)	6	Brandon Harris (Fr.)
FB	**43**	**Connor Neighbors (Sr.)**	49	Melvin Jones (So.)
RB		Leonard Fournette (Fr.)	14	Terrence Magee (Sr.)

DEFENSE (6)

DE	**94**	**Danielle Hunter (Jr.)**	97	Frank Herron (Fr.)
DT	91	Christian LaCouture (So.)	47	Maquedius Bain (Fr.)
DT	95	Quentin Thomas (Jr.)	99	Greg Gilmore (Fr.)
DE	**59**	**Jermauria Rasco (Sr.)**	46	Tashawn Bower (So.)
SLB	45	Deion Jones (Jr.)	22	Ronnie Feist (Jr.)
MLB	**31**	**D.J. Welter (Sr.)**	52	Kendell Beckwith (So.)
WLB	**4**	**Kwon Alexander (Jr.)**	23	Lamar Louis (Jr.)
CB	21	Rashard Robinson (So.)	**28**	**Jalen Mills (Jr.)**
CB	**16**	**Tre'Davious White (So.)**	32	Jalen Collins (Jr.)
FS	26	Ronald Martin (Sr.)	24	Ed Paris Jr. (Fr.)
SS	12	Corey Thompson (Jr.)	29	Rickey Jefferson (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	42	Colby Delahoussaye (So.)	KR	83	Travin Dural (So.)
P	38	Jamie Keehn (Jr.)	PR	16	Tre'Davious White (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Anthony Jennings, 29-13-181-1, 1 TD
Rushing: Terrence Magee, 86 att., 626 yds., 8 TDs
Receiving: Travin Dural, 7 rec., 145 yds., 2 TDs
Tackles: D.J. Welter, 80
Sacks: Jermauria Rasco, 4
Interceptions: Jalen Mills, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Ole Miss OLE MISS REBELS

NATIONAL FORECAST 18
SEC WEST PREDICTION 3

Head Coach: Hugh Freeze
Record at School: 15-11 (2 years)
Career Record: 45-18 (5 years)
Co-Offensive Coordinators: Matt Luke, Dan Werner
Co-Defensive Coordinators: Jason Jones, Dave Wommack
Oxford, MS
Vaught-Hemingway Stadium (60,580)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 9-3, 5-3 (SEC)

August	
28	vs. Boise State #
September	
6	at Vanderbilt
13	UL Lafayette
27	Memphis
October	
4	Alabama
11	at Texas A&M
18	Tennessee
25	at LSU
November	
1	Auburn
8	Presbyterian
22	at Arkansas
29	Mississippi State

#Atlanta, GA

2013 RESULTS (8-5, 3-5)

Aug. 29	at Vanderbilt	W	39–35
Sept. 7	SE Missouri State	W	31–13
Sept. 14	at Texas	W	44–23
Sept. 28	at Alabama	L	0–25
Oct. 5	at Auburn	L	22–30
Oct. 12	Texas A&M	L	38–41
Oct. 19	LSU	W	27–24
Oct. 26	Idaho	W	59–14
Nov. 9	Arkansas	W	34–24
Nov. 16	Troy	W	51–21
Nov. 23	Missouri	L	10–24
Nov. 28	at Miss. State (ot)	L	10–17
Dec. 30	vs. Georgia Tech #	W	25–17

#Music City Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Rod Taylor, OL, Jackson, MS
2. C.J. Hampton, DB, Meridian, MS
3. Markell Pack, WR, Purvis, MS
4. Garrald McDowell, DL, Covington, LA
5. Breeland Speaks, DL, Jackson, MS
6. Tee Shepard, DB, Fresno, CA*
7. Sammie Epps, TE, Greenwood, MS
8. Marquis Haynes, DE, Jacksonville, FL*
9. Gary Wunderlich, K, Memphis, TN
10. Fahn Cooper, OL, Crystal Lake, IL*

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	30.0 ppg	9	57
Rushing	190.0 ypg	7	42
Passing	283.3 ypg	3	23
Total	473.3 ypg	5	21
Defense	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
Scoring	23.7 ppg	7	37
Rushing	154.9 ypg	9	51
Passing	215.5 ypg	8	36
Total	370.5 ypg	7	38
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
+1	+0.1	7	56

OFFENSE The Rebels return the most experienced quarterback in the SEC in Bo Wallace and have more than ample talent around him. Wallace has led the Rebels to some big wins — including an improbable 27–24 win over then-No. 6 LSU a year ago — but he was the subject of criticism for his struggles against rival Mississippi State in the Egg Bowl, a 17–10 overtime loss in which his fumble into the end zone ended the game. It was the unfortunate exclamation point on a four-turnover game in which Wallace threw three interceptions. Wallace, though, is in the best shape of his career and poised for a big senior season.

Wide receiver Donte Moncrief left a year early for the NFL, but there's exciting potential for sophomore Laquon Treadwell, who moves from the slot to the outside. Treadwell caught 72 balls and was named the SEC's top freshman by league coaches last year.

While Wallace struggled to the regular-season finish line in 2013, he was missing a key weapon. Evan Engram, a stretch-the-field tight end, is healthy again after doing enough in eight games as a true freshman to earn second-team All-SEC honors.

Running backs Jaylen Walton and I'Tavius Mathers combined to rush for almost 1,100 yards and nine touchdowns a year ago. They are juniors now. Look for sophomore quarterback Jeremy Liggins in short-yardage situations. He left the spring listed at 6'3", 296 pounds. That's almost 40 pounds heavier than Jared Lorenzen's playing weight at Kentucky in 2003.

Sophomore Laremy Tunsil at left tackle is already drawing the attention of NFL scouts. Junior Aaron Morris returns at left guard after tearing his ACL in the season opener last year. The Rebels have to replace a three-year starter at center, a competition that could see veteran Justin Bell move over from right guard.

STAT CORNER

26.6

The Rebels' average starting field position on offense, 113th in the country. It's hard to score consistently on long fields.

DEFENSE Finally healthy, defensive end C.J. Johnson should lift last year's subpar pass rush with help on the other side from Fadol Brown, one of two FBS transfers expected to fill key roles. Brown played at Florida International two years ago. That's when Anthony Alford was a quarterback at Southern Mississippi. Now Alford's an Ole Miss safety and is considered the team's most athletic player.

Sophomore Robert Nkemdiche was the nation's No. 1 recruit as a defensive end. He moved to tackle toward the end of last season and had eight tackles and a sack in his last two games.

There is experience at corner with senior Senquez Golson and junior Mike Hilton, and intriguing depth behind them in long and athletic Derrick Jones (6'2", 188) and junior college transfer Tee Shepard, once a Notre Dame signee. Senior free safety Cody Prewitt is a returning All-American, while sophomore Tony Conner is a rising star at the Huskie position in the Rebels' 4-2-5 scheme.

SPECIALISTS The Rebels will miss the flip-the-field ability of punter Tyler Campbell. Freshman Gary Wunderlich could get a look here. Redshirt freshman Andy Pappanastos and senior Andrew Fletcher are competing to replace kicker Andrew Ritter. Both have impressive high school résumés, but there's no college game experience for Pappanastos and precious little for Fletcher.

FINAL ANALYSIS After the Rebels closed strong in Freeze's debut season, then added a consensus top-10 recruiting class, they were a popular pick as a team to make a big leap in 2013. That didn't happen, largely due to offensive struggles late in the season.

This season, with increased depth and more experience from the stellar 2013 recruits, expectations are soaring once again. This team has the potential to be a factor in the SEC West race. For that to happen they need Wallace — with talent around him — to reduce turnovers and deliver in big games more consistently.

LAQUON TREADWELL

Paul J. Levy/Athlon Sports

THE QUOTE

"I think Ole Miss is going to be dang good. Don't be shocked if they win the division. I wouldn't. It's sort of wide open this year."

— An opposing SEC assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	1	**Laquon Treadwell (So.)**		Markell Pack (Fr.)
WR	8	Quincy Adeboyejo (So.)	88	Cody Core (Jr.)
WR	10	Vince Sanders (Sr.)	16	Collins Moore (Sr.)
LT	78	**Laremy Tunsil (So.)**		Fahn Cooper (Jr.)
LG	72	Aaron Morris (Sr.)		Rod Taylor (Fr.)
C	64	Ben Still (Jr.)	75	Robert Conyers (So.)
RG	68	**Justin Bell (Jr.)**	76	Daronte Bouldin (Fr.)
RT		Fahn Cooper (Jr.)	75	Robert Conyers (So.)
TE	17	Evan Engram (So.)	34	Nicholas Parker (Sr.)
QB	14	**Bo Wallace (Sr.)**	2	DeVante Kincade (Fr.)
RB	5	I'Tavius Mathers (Jr.)	6	**Jaylen Walton (Jr.)**

DEFENSE (9)

DE	10	C.J. Johnson (Sr.)	54	Carlos Thompson (Sr.)
DT	5	**Robert Nkemdiche (So.)**	95	**Bryon Bennett (Sr.)**
NT	56	**Woodrow Hamilton (Jr.)**	94	Issac Gross (Jr.)
DE	90	Fadol Brown (So.)	27	Marquis Haynes (Fr.)
MLB	38	D.T. Shackelford (Sr.)	20	Christian Russell (Jr.)
OLB	14	**Serderius Bryant (Sr.)**	4	Denzel Nkemdiche (Jr.)
HUS	12	**Tony Conner (So.)**	8	Chief Brown (Jr.)
CB	28	**Mike Hilton (Jr.)**	19	Derrick Jones (So.)
CB	21	**Senquez Golson (Sr.)**		Tee Shepard (Jr.)
FS	25	**Cody Prewitt (Sr.)**	3	C.J. Hampton (Fr.)
SS	7	**Trae Elston (Jr.)**	13	Anthony Alford (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	19	Andy Pappanastos (Fr.)	KR	6	Jaylen Walton (Jr.)
P		Gary Wunderlich (Fr.)	PR	7	Trae Elston (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Bo Wallace, 437-283-3,346-10, 18 TDs
Rushing: I'Tavius Mathers, 95 att., 563 yds., 3 TDs
Receiving: Laquon Treadwell, 72 rec., 608 yds., 5 TDs
Tackles: Serderius Bryant, 78
Sacks: Issac Gross, 3.5
Interceptions: Cody Prewitt, 6

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

MISSISSIPPI STATE BULLDOGS

NATIONAL FORECAST 33
SEC WEST PREDICTION 5

Head Coach: Dan Mullen
Record at School: 36-28 (5 years)
Career Record: 36-28 (5 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Billy Gonzales, John Hevesy
Defensive Coordinator: Geoff Collins
Starkville, MS
Davis Wade Stadium at Scott Field (61,337)

2014 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 8-4, 4-4 (SEC)

August	
30	Southern Miss
September	
6	UAB
13	at South Alabama
20	at LSU
October	
4	Texas A&M
11	Auburn
25	at Kentucky
November	
1	Arkansas
8	Tennessee-Martin
15	at Alabama
22	Vanderbilt
29	at Ole Miss

2013 RESULTS (7-6, 3-5)

Aug. 31	vs. Oklahoma State %	L	3-21
Sept. 7	Alcorn State	W	51-7
Sept. 14	at Auburn	L	20-24
Sept. 21	Troy	W	62-7
Oct. 5	LSU	L	26-59
Oct. 12	Bowling Green	W	21-20
Oct. 24	Kentucky	W	28-22
Nov. 2	at South Carolina	L	16-34
Nov. 9	at Texas A&M	L	41-51
Nov. 16	Alabama	L	7-20
Nov. 23	vs. Arkansas & (ot)	W	24-17
Nov. 28	Ole Miss (ot)	W	17-10
Dec. 31	vs. Rice #	W	44-7

%Houston &Little Rock #Liberty Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Jamoral Graham, WR, Decatur, MS
2. Aeris Williams, RB West Point, MS
3. Gerri Green, LB, Greenville, MS
4. Ravian Pierce, TE, Fort Lauderdale, FL
5. Jesse Jackson, WR, Petal, MS
6. Brandon Bryant, S, Tunica, MS
7. Cory Thomas, DE, Bessemer, AL
8. Will Coleman*, DE, Tyler, TX
9. Darrion Hutcherson, TE, Wesson, MS*
10. J.T. Gray, S, Clarksdale, MS

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	27.7 ppg	10	70
Rushing	189.9 ypg	8	43
Passing	244.5 ypg	8	53
Total	434.4 ypg	9	42
Defense	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
Scoring	23.0 ppg	5	33
Rushing	144.2 ypg	4	37
Passing	205.2 ypg	5	22
Total	349.3 ypg	4	18
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
+7	+0.5	3	24

OFFENSE The high hopes for the Mississippi State offense are centered around the lofty expectations for quarterback Dak Prescott. The junior returns as the SEC's active leader in rushing touchdowns (17) by a quarterback, three more than Ole Miss' Bo Wallace He's also second in the conference in rushing yards by an active quarterback with 947. To take the next step, Prescott will need to improve his consistency throwing the ball down the field.

Brian Johnson, MSU's new quarterbacks coach, likes what he sees from his star pupil. "When you see him, you can tell he's a quarterback," says Johnson, a former quarterback at Utah. "He carries himself with a certain demeanor that draws people to him. He has some special abilities and special tools."

The expectations are just as high at running back, where LaDarius Perkins has passed the torch to Josh Robinson. Now a junior, Robinson arrived at spring camp 10 pounds lighter than he was in the fall. He said he lost weight in the offseason, but gained muscle. Physically he looks bigger. Robinson will have help in the backfield from senior Nick Griffin, sophomore Ashton Shumpert and promising true freshman Aeris Williams.

Senior Jameon Lewis headlines a receiving corps with plenty of weapons. Lewis totaled 923 receiving yards last season — the second-most in school history — including a 220-yard performance in the Liberty Bowl. He hopes to build upon the momentum from last year by adding consistency. Despite his breakout season, Lewis still posted four games with three or fewer receptions.

The offensive line is one of the few areas Mississippi State has questions marks entering the 2014 season. The Bulldogs need to replace guard Gabe Jackson, who was MSU's most talented player last season, and tackle Charles Siddoway. The Bulldogs went through the spring without finding definitive answers at either spot.

STAT CORNER

3.9

Average points scored per trip inside the 40 by MSU, which was 93rd in the country. Opponents averaged 4.4 points per trip. That discrepancy adds up.

DEFENSE It all starts up front for Mississippi State's defense. The Bulldogs return eight defensive linemen who played at least 10 games last season. MSU excelled at stopping the run last year, but struggled getting to the quarterback. It only recorded 20 sacks — and four came against Rice in the Liberty Bowl. Improved depth along the line should help Mississippi State increase that number.

The coaching staff referred to the linebackers as the heart of the defense last year. It could be the same in 2014. The Bulldogs return two of their three starters, including leading tackler Benardrick McKinney. The junior looks to return to numbers he put up as a freshman when he recorded 102 tackles.

The Bulldogs are loaded at corner, where several young players were forced into action last fall. The staff has confidence in Taveze Calhoun, Jamerson Love and Will Redmond to contain some of the league's top wideouts.

SPECIALISTS No unit struggled more for Mississippi State than special teams in 2013. MSU made 10-of-21 field goals, a 47.6 percent accuracy rate that ranked 120th in the country. The Bulldogs were one of four teams in the country that didn't make at least 50 percent of their field goals. Last year's kicker, Devon Bell, will now focusing on punting. Sophomore Evan Sobiesk, who made 3-of-6 last year, is the favorite to handle the field goals.

FINAL ANALYSIS Expectations are high in Starkville. Mississippi State enters the season with one of the top quarterbacks in the SEC and a defense that has the potential to be among the best in the league. If suitable replacements are found on the offensive line and the special teams improves, the 2014 season could be the best in Dan Mullen's six years at the school.

DAK PRESCOTT

Margaret Bowles/Athlon Sports

THE QUOTE

"This is an intriguing team. It could go either way for them — they could break through or be toward the bottom of the SEC West."

— An opposing SEC assistant coach

OFFENSE (8)

WR	12	**Robert Johnson (Sr.)**	86	Fred Brown (So.)
WR	4	**Jameon Lewis (Sr.)**	35	Gabe Myles (Fr.)
WR	81	De'Runnya Wilson (So.)	**16**	**Joe Morrow (Jr.)**
LT	75	**Blaine Clausell (Sr.)**	71	Cole Carter (So.)
LG	60	Jamaal Clayborn (So.)	**66**	**Ben Beckwith (Sr.)**
C	63	**Dillon Day (Sr.)**	59	Archie Muniz (Sr.)
RG	70	Justin Malone (Jr.)	66	Ben Beckwith (Sr.)
RT	78	Damien Robinson (Sr.)	73	Jocquell Johnson (Jr.)
TE	6	**Malcolm Johnson (Sr.)**	18	Brandon Hill (Sr.)
QB	15	**Dak Prescott (Jr.)**	14	Damian Williams (So.)
RB	34	Josh Robinson (Jr.)	32	Ashton Shumpert (So.)

DEFENSE (8)

DE	91	**Preston Smith (Sr.)**	47	A.J. Jefferson (So.)
DT	96	Chris Jones (So.)	**92**	**Kaleb Eulls (Sr.)**
DT	93	**P.J. Jones (Sr.)**	98	Curtis Virges (Sr.)
DE	48	Ryan Brown (Jr.)	47	Nelson Adams (So.)
LB	22	**Matthew Wells (Sr.)**	14	Zach Jackson (Jr.)
LB	50	**Benardrick McKinney (Jr.)**	39	Richie Brown (So.)
LB	42	Beniquez Brown (So.)	39	Richie Brown (So.)
CB	23	**Taveze Calhoun (Jr.)**	13	Cedric Jiles (So.)
CB	5	**Jamerson Love (Sr.)**	2	Will Redmond (Jr.)
S	3	Jay Hughes (Sr.)	**26**	**Kendrick Market (Jr.)**
S	9	Justin Cox (Sr.)	33	Kivon Coman (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	64	Evan Sobiesk (So.)	KR	4	Jameon Lewis (Sr.)
P	40	Devon Bell (Jr.)	PR	4	Jameon Lewis (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Dak Prescott, 267-156-1,940-7, 10 TDs
Rushing: Dak Prescott, 134 att., 829 yds., 13 TDs
Receiving: Jameon Lewis, 64 rec., 923 yds., 5 TDs
Tackles: Benardrick McKinney, 71
Sacks: Benardrick McKinney, 3.5
Interceptions: Taveze Calhoun, 3; Jamerson Love, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

TEXAS A&M AGGIES

NATIONAL FORECAST **34**
SEC WEST PREDICTION **6**

Head Coach: Kevin Sumlin
Record at School: 20-6 (2 years)
Career Record: 55-23 (6 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Jake Spavital
Defensive Coordinator: Mark Snyder
College Station, TX
Kyle Field (106,500)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 7-5, 3-5 (SEC)

August	
28	at South Carolina
September	
6	Lamar
13	Rice
20	at SMU
27	vs. Arkansas #
October	
4	at Mississippi State
11	Ole Miss
18	at Alabama
November	
1	UL Monroe
8	at Auburn
15	Missouri
27	LSU

#Arlington, TX

2013 RESULTS (9-4, 4-4)

Aug. 31	Rice	W	52-31
Sept. 7	Sam Houston State	W	65-28
Sept. 14	Alabama	L	42-49
Sept. 21	SMU	W	42-13
Sept. 28	at Arkansas	W	45-33
Oct. 12	at Ole Miss	W	41-38
Oct. 19	Auburn	L	41-45
Oct. 26	Vanderbilt	W	56-24
Nov. 2	UTEP	W	57-7
Nov. 9	Mississippi State	W	51-41
Nov. 23	at LSU	L	10-34
Nov. 30	at Missouri	L	21-28
Dec. 31	vs. Duke #	W	52-48

#Chick-fil-A Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Myles Garrett, DE, Arlington, TX
2. Speedy Noil, WR, New Orleans, LA
3. Kyle Allen, QB, Scottsdale, AZ
4. Nick Havey, CB, Richmond, TX
5. Frank Iheanacho, WR, Houston, TX
6. DeShawn Washington, DT, Nederland, TX
7. Qualen Cunningham, DE, Chandler, AZ
8. Otaro Alaka, LB, Houston, TX
9. Armani Watts, DB, Forney, TX
10. Jermaine Eluemunor, OL, Denville, NJ*

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	44.2	1	5
Rushing	185.1	10	45
Passing	353.3	1	7
Total	538.4	1	4
Defense	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
Scoring	32.2	14	95
Rushing	222.3	14	110
Passing	253.5	12	95
Total	475.8	14	109
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**SEC**	**National**
+1	+0.1	7	56

OFFENSE While there's no replacing Johnny Manziel, Texas A&M's coaching staff is confident that whoever emerges as the starter will possess the necessary skills to make A&M's offense highly effective once again. The top two quarterback candidates (sophomore Kenny Hill and true freshman Kyle Allen) have combined for 22 passing attempts. Without Manziel, A&M may rely more heavily on its ground game, where Trey Williams is an explosive breakaway threat, and junior Tra Carson, who played at Oregon as a true freshman in 2011, may be the most valuable weapon. Carson is a particularly punishing runner.

While the Aggies will miss the imposing wide receiver presence of 6'5" Mike Evans, the 6'5" Ricky Seals-Jones may be the next go-to target. A&M also features senior Malcome Kennedy, its second-leading receiver from last year, as well as some talented young players like true freshman Speedy Noil, who was ranked as the nation's No. 1 athlete prospect by one recruiting service. "As explosive as anybody I've ever seen," A&M wide receivers coach David Beaty says of Noil.

The tradition of great left tackles at A&M continues, as Cedric Ogbuehi moves from right tackle to possibly follow in the first-round draft pick footsteps of Luke Joeckel and Jake Matthews. The rest of the offensive front looks imposing as well. Junior Mike Matthews (Jake's younger brother) is continuing to develop as an outstanding center, and Jarvis Harrison and Germain Ifedi return on a exceptional offensive front.

STAT CORNER

4.9

Average points allowed by the A&M defense when opponents advanced the ball inside the 40-yard line. That figure ranked the Aggies 115th in the nation.

DEFENSE If defensive tackle Isaiah Golden returns to school in the fall, as expected, A&M will welcome back all four starters and all four backups from last season. But newcomers could make the biggest difference, as the Aggies added a tremendous recruiting class of defensive linemen highlighted by five-star end Myles Garrett. The newcomers join returning starters Gavin Stansbury, Alonzo Williams and Julien Obioha to provide defensive coordinator Mark Snyder some impressive depth.

The linebackers may have been the weakest link of a defense that ranked last in the SEC in total and rushing yards allowed per game. A&M was extremely young at linebacker last season, as three true freshmen — Darian Claiborne, Jordan Mastrogiovanni and Shaan Washington — received considerable playing time. A&M should receive a lift from the return of those players, as well as the addition of TCU transfer A.J. Hilliard and true freshman Otaro Alaka.

The Aggies feature one marquee player in the secondary in senior playmaker Deshazor Everett, a lock-down cornerback. The rest of the backfield is filled with uncertainties. Fellow cornerback De'Vante Harris, for example, has been solid as a pass defender, but he has not been a particularly good tackler.

SPECIALISTS Junior Drew Kaser led the SEC in punting last year (47.4-yard average) and is a legitimate Ray Guy Award candidate in 2014. Placekicker Josh Lambo was practically an answer to prayers last season, providing accuracy and consistency that had been a major issue in 2012. The Aggies also feature a big-play return specialist in Trey Williams.

FINAL ANALYSIS A&M's stadium is undergoing a $450 million redevelopment that will make Kyle Field one of the premier venues in college football when construction is done in 2015. Until that time, however, Kyle Field remains a work in progress. The same could be said for the inhabitants of the facility. With a strong offensive line, a stable of promising, young skill players on offense and a defense that should improve, the Aggies could be a factor in the SEC West. But 2015 may be the year A&M steps back into in the national spotlight.

DESHAZOR EVERETT

Layne Murdoch Jr./Athlon Sports

THE QUOTE

"What's going to kill them is losing not only Johnny Manziel, but a couple of really good receivers and the Jake Matthews kid."

— An opposing SEC assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	23	Sabian Holmes (Jr.)	2	Speedy Noil (Fr.)
WR	9	Ricky Seals-Jones (Fr.)	6	LaQuvionte Gonzalez (So.)
WR	**84**	**Malcome Kennedy (Sr.)**	19	Jeremy Tabuyo (So.)
LT	**70**	**Cedric Ogbuehi (Sr.)**	65	Avery Gennesy (Jr.)
LG	**51**	**Jarvis Harrison (Sr.)**	78	Garrett Gramling (Sr.)
C	**56**	**Mike Matthews (Jr.)**	68	Ben Compton (Sr.)
RG	79	Joseph Cheek (Jr.)	72	Jermaine Eluemunor (Jr.)
RT	**74**	**Germain Ifedi (So.)**	63	Ryan Lindblade (So.)
TE	85	Cameron Clear (Sr.)	41	Brandon Alexander (Jr.)
QB	10	Kyle Allen (Fr.)	7	Kenny Hill (So.)
TB	21	Tra Carson (Jr.)	3	Trey Williams (Jr.)

DEFENSE (8)

DE	**95**	**Julien Obioha (Jr.)**	35	Tyrell Taylor (Sr.)
NG	**99**	**Isaiah Golden (So.)**	92	Zaycoven Henderson (Fr.)
DT	**83**	**Alonzo Williams (Jr.)**	55	Justin Manning (Fr.)
DE	**72**	**Gavin Stansbury (Sr.)**		Myles Garrett (Fr.)
SLB	16	Donnie Baggs (Sr.)	33	Shaan Washington (So.)
MLB	45	Jordan Mastrogiovanni (So.)	13	Reggie Chevis (Fr.)
WLB	**48**	**Darian Claiborne (So.)**	46	A.J. Hilliard (So.)
CB	**1**	**De'Vante Harris (Jr.)**	22	Tavares Garner (So.)
CB	**29**	**Deshazor Everett (Sr.)**	28	Victor Davis (Fr.)
FS	5	Floyd Raven (Sr.)	26	Devonta Burns (Jr.)
SS	**31**	**Howard Matthews (Sr.)**	36	Jonathan Wiggins (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	49	Josh Lambo (Sr.)	KR	3	Trey Williams (Jr.)
P	38	Drew Kaser (Jr.)	PR	2	Speedy Noil (Fr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Kenny Hill, 22-16-183-0, 1 TD
Rushing: Trey Williams, 58 att., 407 yds., 6 TDs
Receiving: Malcome Kennedy, 60 rec., 658 yds., 7 TDs
Tackles: Howard Matthews, 90
Sacks: Gavin Stansbury, 3.0; Shaan Washington, 3.0
Interceptions: Howard Matthews, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

SUN BELT PREVIEW

TERRANCE BROADWAY, UL LAFAYETTE

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

1. UL LAFAYETTE **RAGIN' CAJUNS** 10-2, 8-0 SUN BELT
2. SOUTH ALABAMA **JAGUARS** 8-4, 7-1 SUN BELT
3. ARKANSAS STATE **RED WOLVES** 7-5, 6-2 SUN BELT
4. TROY **TROJANS** 6-6, 5-3 SUN BELT
5. ULM **WARHAWKS** 5-7, 5-3 SUN BELT
6. TEXAS STATE **BOBCATS** 5-7, 4-4 SUN BELT
7. GEORGIA SOUTHERN **EAGLES** 4-8, 3-5 SUN BELT
8. APPALACHIAN STATE **MOUNTAINEERS** 4-8, 2-6 SUN BELT
9. IDAHO **VANDALS** 2-10, 2-6 SUN BELT
10. GEORGIA STATE **PANTHERS** 2-10, 1-7 SUN BELT
11. NEW MEXICO STATE **AGGIES** 2-10, 1-7 SUN BELT

2014 UNIT RANKINGS

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
APPALACHIAN STATE	8	6	10	10	8	10	11
ARKANSAS STATE	2	5	5	5	5	2	1
GEORGIA SOUTHERN	7	8	11	9	10	11	6
GEORGIA STATE	9	11	9	11	9	7	8
IDAHO	10	9	8	7	3	8	10
NEW MEXICO STATE	11	10	6	6	11	9	9
SOUTH ALABAMA	5	3	1	1	4	5	2
TEXAS STATE	3	2	7	8	7	1	7
TROY	6	4	2	3	6	6	5
UL LAFAYETTE	1	1	4	2	1	3	3
ULM	4	7	3	4	2	4	4

Broadway: UL Lafayette SID; Gordon: Nelson Chenault-USA TODAY Sports

2013 SUN BELT STANDINGS

	SUN BELT	OVERALL
UL LAFAYETTE	5-2	9-4
ARKANSAS STATE	5-2	8-5
WESTERN KENTUCKY	4-3	8-4
ULM	4-3	6-6
SOUTH ALABAMA	4-3	6-6
TROY	4-3	6-6
TEXAS STATE	2-5	6-6
GEORGIA STATE	0-7	0-12

MICHAEL GORDON, ARKANSAS STATE

2014 SUN BELT BOWL PROJECTIONS

New Orleans Bowl UL Lafayette vs. Utah State

GoDaddy Bowl South Alabama vs. Bowling Green

Camellia Bowl Arkansas State vs. Toledo

2013 SUN BELT BOWL RESULTS

New Orleans Bowl UL Lafayette 24, Tulane 21

GoDaddy Bowl Arkansas State 23, Ball State 20

RECRUITING BY SCHOOL

1. Georgia Southern 2. Appalachian State 3. Arkansas State 4. Texas State 5. Georgia State 6. UL Lafayette 7. South Alabama 8. Idaho 9. New Mexico State 10. ULM 11 Troy

PRESEASON ALL-SUN BELT TEAM

FIRST-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	TERRANCE BROADWAY	6-2	221	Sr.	UL Lafayette
RB	MICHAEL GORDON	5-9	187	Jr.	Arkansas State
RB	ALONZO HARRIS	6-1	238	Sr.	UL Lafayette
WR	DEZMON EPPS	5-10	170	Sr.	Idaho
WR	JAMAL ROBINSON	6-4	205	Sr.	UL Lafayette
TE	WES SAXTON	6-4	240	Sr.	South Alabama
C	MIKE MARBOE	6-2	296	Sr.	Idaho
G	SHAUN ARTZ	6-5	295	Sr.	South Alabama
G	DANIEL QUAVE	6-3	321	Sr.	UL Lafayette
T	TERRENCE JONES	6-3	320	Sr.	Troy
T	CHRIS MAY	6-5	290	Jr.	South Alabama

FIRST-TEAM DEFENSE

DE	TYLER ROBERTS	6-2	220	Jr.	Troy
DE	CHRIS STONE	6-3	252	Jr.	Arkansas State
DT	QUAYSHAWNE BUCKLEY	6-4	305	Sr.	Idaho
DT	JUSTIN HAMILTON	6-2	310	Sr.	UL Lafayette
LB	QUSHAUN LEE	5-11	225	Sr.	Arkansas State
LB	DAVID MAYO	6-2	228	Sr.	Texas State
LB	MICHAEL ORAKPO	6-1	226	Sr.	Texas State
CB	ROCKY HAYES	5-11	187	Jr.	Arkansas State
CB	CRAIG MAGER	5-11	190	Sr.	Texas State
S	SEAN THOMAS	5-10	173	Sr.	UL Lafayette
S	STERLING YOUNG	6-2	193	Sr.	Arkansas State

FIRST-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	ALEEM SUNANON	5-7	185	So.	South Alabama
P	JUSTIN MANTON	6-2	200	Sr.	ULM
KR	J.D. MCKISSIC	5-11	193	Jr.	Arkansas State
PR	BRYAN HOLMES	5-11	178	Jr.	Troy

SECOND-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	FREDI KNIGHTEN	5-11	189	Jr.	Arkansas State
RB	MARCUS COX	5-10	185	So.	Appalachian State
RB	ELIJAH MCGUIRE	5-11	198	So.	UL Lafayette
WR	RASHON CEASER	6-0	190	Jr.	ULM
WR	J.D. MCKISSIC	5-11	193	Jr.	Arkansas State
TE	DARION GRISWOLD	6-5	264	Jr.	Arkansas State
C	BRYCE GIDDENS	5-11	300	Jr.	Arkansas State
G	DREW DEARMAN	6-3	305	Sr.	South Alabama
G	BEN RISENHOOVER	6-2	296	Sr.	ULM
T	JOSEPH TREADWELL	6-5	325	Sr.	ULM
T	UCAMBRE WILLIAMS	6-3	295	Sr.	South Alabama

SECOND-TEAM DEFENSE

DE	MAXX FORDE	6-3	261	Sr.	Idaho
DE	JOEY GAUTNEY	6-2	256	Sr.	ULM
DT	GERRAND JOHNSON	6-0	280	Jr.	ULM
DT	JEROME MCCLAIN	6-3	290	Sr.	South Alabama
LB	MALEKI HARRIS	6-1	210	Sr.	South Alabama
LB	JOSEPH PETERSON	6-0	220	Jr.	Georgia State
LB	DOMINIQUE TOVELL	6-2	237	Jr.	UL Lafayette
CB	MONTELL GARNER	6-1	185	Sr.	South Alabama
CB	COREY TRIM	5-11	182	Sr.	UL Lafayette
S	TERRELL BRIGHAM	6-0	190	Sr.	South Alabama
S	MITCH LANE	6-1	215	Jr.	ULM

SECOND-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	JASON DANN	6-0	205	Sr.	Texas State
P	AUSTIN REHKOW	6-3	202	So.	Idaho
KR	BRANDON SMITH	6-2	170	Jr.	Texas State
PR	J.D. MCKISSIC	5-11	193	Jr.	Arkansas State

APPALACHIAN STATE MOUNTAINEERS

NATIONAL FORECAST **123**
SUN BELT PREDICTION **8**

Head Coach: Scott Satterfield
Record at School: 4-8 (1 year)
Career Record: 4-8 (1 year)
Co-Offensive Coordinators: Dwayne Ledford, Frank Ponce
Defensive Coordinator: Nate Woody
Boone, NC
Kidd Brewer Stadium (23,150)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 4-8, 2-6 (SUN BELT)

August	
30	at Michigan
September	
6	Campbell
20	at Southern Miss
25	at Georgia Southern
October	
4	South Alabama
11	Liberty
18	at Troy
November	
1	Georgia State
8	UL Monroe
15	at Arkansas State
22	at UL Lafayette
29	Idaho

2013 RESULTS (4-8, 4-4)

Aug. 31	at Montana	L	6-30
Sept. 7	North Carolina A&T	L	21-24
Sept. 21	at Elon	W	31-21
Sept. 28	Charleston Southern	L	24-27
Oct. 5	at The Citadel (ot)	L	28-31
Oct. 12	Samford	L	10-34
Oct. 19	at Furman	L	10-27
Oct. 26	Georgia Southern	W	38-14
Nov. 2	Chattanooga	L	28-35
Nov. 9	at Georgia	L	6-45
Nov. 16	at Wofford	W	33-21
Nov. 23	Western Carolina	W	48-27

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Shaedon Meadors, WR, Duncan, SC
2. Nikia Cathey, ATH, Memphis, TN
3. Josh Boyd, RB, Norcross, GA
4. J.P. Caruso, QB, Palm Beach Gardens, FL
5. Brandon Walton, TE, Carrollton, GA
6. Jordan Noil, WR, Duluth, GA
7. Deltron Hopkins, WR, Miami, FL
8. Okon Godwin, LB, Covington, GA
9. Alanmichael Harkness, DE, Lithonia, GA
10. A.J. Howard, DB, Hamilton, GA

2013 STATS

Offense	Per Game
Scoring	23.6 ppg
Rushing	138.0 ypg
Passing	271.8 ypg
Total	409.8 ypg
Defense	**Per Game**
Scoring	28.0 ppg
Rushing	220.3 ypg
Passing	180.3 ypg
Total	400.5 ypg
TO Margin	**Per Game**
+1	+0.1

OFFENSE As the quarterbacks coach during Appalachian State's string of three FCS titles less than a decade ago, second-year head coach Scott Satterfield is used to seeing the Mountaineers thrive on offense. After seeing a dip in scoring and several other categories last season, stability in several spots means they should move back toward that familiar form.

Kameron Bryant is back for his second season as Appalachian State's starting quarterback. He threw for more than 2,700 yards and completed 71.2 percent of his passes. Bryant isn't the same running threat that some of Satterfield's former charges were, but with an offense that takes advantage of the junior's accurate arm, the Mountaineers' spread look should still be tough to stop.

Sophomore running back Marcus Cox, who rushed for 1,250 yards last season, will have a veteran offensive line to work behind and some help in freshman running back Terrence Upshaw.

The one area on offense in which the Mountaineers will see significant turnover is at receiver. Since only three of Bryant's top targets return from last season, Satterfield expects the six new faces he's brought in to make an impact.

DEFENSE Last season was a period of transition for Appalachian State's defense. New defensive coordinator Nate Woody, a longtime assistant at Southern Conference rival Wofford, brought in a 3-4 look that took some time for the young Mountaineers to grasp.

Satterfield says that while this season's group will still be largely comprised of young players, he sees progress.

Senior Ronald Blair will lead a defensive line that should also receive major contributions from defensive ends Deuce Robinson and Olawale Dada and nose tackles Darian Small and Tyson Fernandez. The group will try to better the eight sacks it accrued last season.

Outside linebackers Rashaad Townes and Kennan Gilchrist also had strong springs and should push for playing time. Along with John Law, who racked up 71 tackles last year, they'll have to offset the loss of last season's leading tackler Karl Anderson.

A young secondary is the lone question mark facing the defense. But with a large group of potential contributors, the Mountaineers believe there are answers out there.

STAT CORNER

23.6

Points per game scored by the Mountaineers' offense, easily their worst average since 2003.

SPECIALISTS Punter Bentlee Critcher was a pleasant surprise last season, going from freshman walk-on to third-team FCS All-American. After averaging 45.9 yards per punt — the second-best mark in school history — Critcher has a firm grip on the job. Zach Matics will take over the rest of the kicking duties after handling kickoffs last season. The return game will be sorted out in the preseason.

FINAL ANALYSIS One of the dominant programs in the Southern Conference and on the FCS level for decades, Appalachian State is on the brink of its first season in the FBS ranks.

The Mountaineers — who matched their lowest win total since 1993 last season — will face several challenges, like depth issues stemming from the push to reach their full complement of scholarships and a lineup of new Sun Belt Conference opponents. So for a team and a fan base that's used to success, this season could be a big adjustment.

But if things are kept in perspective, there's reason for optimism.

While on the staff at Florida International, Satterfield did win a Sun Belt title, so he understands what Appalachian State is up against. And with a team that will lean on young talent, there's reason to believe that the Mountaineers will eventually be a force in their new league. Still, there's a strong chance their first taste of FBS life — which begins with a trip to Michigan, site of their unforgettable 2007 upset — will have some bumpy moments.

MARCUS COX

THE QUOTE

"This is a good pickup for the league. They are a very physical, hard-nosed team that has run the spread. Good program."

— An opposing Sun Belt assistant coach

OFFENSE (8)

WR	7	Malachi Jones (Jr.)	87	Trey Kavanaugh (Jr.)
WR	**83**	**Simms McElfresh (Jr.)**	82	Dante Jones (Fr.)
WR	81	Bobo Beathard (Jr.)	89	Jaquil Capel (So.)
LT	**74**	**Kendall Lamm (Sr.)**	50	Beau Nunn (Fr.)
LG	50	Beau Nunn (Fr.)	**63**	**Shaq Counts (Jr.)**
C	**55**	**Graham Fisher (Sr.)**	60	Jesse Chapman (Jr.)
RG	75	Parker Collins (So.)	**77**	**Alex Acey (Sr.)**
RT	73	Davante Harris (Jr.)	**64**	**Will Corbin (Sr.)**
TE	85	Barrett Burns (So.)	44	Drew Bailey (Sr.)
QB	**5**	**Kameron Bryant (Jr.)**	17	Taylor Lamb (Fr.)
RB	**14**	**Marcus Cox (So.)**	25	Terrence Upshaw (Fr.)

DEFENSE (5)

LE	49	Ronald Blair (Sr.)	56	Thomas Bronson (Jr.)
NT	72	Tyson Fernandez (So.)	54	Darian Small (So.)
RE	**2**	**Deuce Robinson (Sr.)**	36	Olawale Dada (So.)
OLB	**31**	**Rashaad Townes (So.)**	37	Lee Wright (Fr.)
ILB	22	Brandon McGowan (Sr.)	35	Toronto Thomas (So.)
ILB	**88**	**John Law (So.)**	43	Denzel Ward (Jr.)
OLB	6	Kennan Gilchrist (So.)	30	Osvaldo Sombo (Jr.)
CB	**26**	**Joel Ross (Sr.)**	18	Brandon Pinckney (Fr.)
CB	24	Dante Blackmon (So.)	29	Aaron Krah (Jr.)
FS	21	Doug Middleton (Jr.)	19	Treyon Garnett (Fr.)
SS	**13**	**Kevin Walton (Jr.)**		A.J. Howard (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	59	Zach Matics (Jr.)	KR	81	Bobo Beathard (Jr.)
P	91	Bentlee Critcher (So.)	PR	81	Bobo Beathard (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Kameron Bryant, 333-237-2,713-4, 14 TDs
Rushing: Marcus Cox, 245 att., 1,250 yds., 15 TDs
Receiving: Marcus Cox, 43 rec., 559 yds., 6 TDs
Tackles: John Law, 71
Sacks: Deuce Robinson, 2.0
Interceptions: John Law, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

AP Photo/David Goldman

ARKANSAS STATE RED WOLVES

NATIONAL FORECAST 93
SUN BELT PREDICTION 3

Head Coach: Blake Anderson
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: First Season
Co-Offensive Coordinators: Walt Bell, Glen Elarbee
Defensive Coordinator: Joe Cauthen
Jonesboro, AR
Liberty Bank Stadium (30,406)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 7-5, 6-2 (SUN BELT)

August	
30	Montana State
September	
6	at Tennessee
13	at Miami
20	Utah State
October	
4	ULM
11	at Georgia State
21	at UL Lafayette
November	
1	at Idaho
8	South Alabama
15	Appalachian State
20	at Texas State
29	New Mexico State

2013 RESULTS (8-5, 5-2)

Aug. 31	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	W	62–11
Sept. 7	at Auburn	L	9–38
Sept. 12	Troy	W	41–34
Sept. 21	at Memphis	L	7–31
Sept. 28	at Missouri	L	19–41
Oct. 12	Idaho	W	48–24
Oct. 22	UL Lafayette	L	7–23
Nov. 2	at South Alabama	W	17–16
Nov. 9	at ULM	W	42–14
Nov. 16	Texas State	W	38–21
Nov. 23	Georgia State	W	35–33
Nov. 30	at Western Kentucky	L	31–34
Jan. 5	vs. Ball State #	W	23–20

#GoDaddy Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Blaise Taylor, CB, Auburn, AL
2. Nehemiah Wagner, CB, Mesquite, TX
3. Chuks Ota, DT, Jonesboro, AR
4. Kyle Strickland, DE, Brandon MS
5. Christian Beard, OL, Waco, TX
6. A.J. Turner, LB, Lepanto, AR
7. Charles Gaskins, CB, Tallahassee, FL
8. Kyle Harris, OL, Lindale, GA*
9. Tyler Trosin, WR, Folsom, CA*
10. Charles Grant, S, Mesquite, TX

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Sun Belt	National
Scoring	29.2 ppg	5	67
Rushing	205.7 ypg	1	24
Passing	202.1 ypg	6	89
Total	407.8 ypg	5	65
Defense	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**	**National**
Scoring	26.2 ppg	3	58
Rushing	180.2 ypg	6	80
Passing	232.9 ypg	3	69
Total	413.1 ypg	5	74
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**	**National**
+7	0.5	1	24

Arkansas State SID

OFFENSE Recruited to run Gus Malzahn's fast-paced system two years ago, junior quarterback Fredi Knighten appears poised to take the reins as ASU installs Blake Anderson's version of the hurry-up offense. Knighten spent most of 2013 on the sideline but took over near the end of the season when senior Adam Kennedy was injured. Knighten earned GoDaddy Bowl MVP honors after engineering a last-minute touchdown drive to beat Ball State. While not a classic pocket passer at 5'11", Knighten is capable of spreading the ball around and is always a big-play threat with his speed.

Michael Gordon emerged as one of the Sun Belt's best running backs as a sophomore, rushing for 754 yards and 10 touchdowns, but backfield depth is a concern, and freshmen could be in the mix. Anderson's first recruiting class included three running backs.

ASU features one of the league's most versatile players in J.D. McKissic, who was on the All-Sun Belt team as a wide receiver, all-purpose player and kick return specialist last fall. McKissic has caught 185 passes in his first two seasons. Graduation hit the receiving corps hard, however, and redshirt freshmen Dijon Paschal, Brandon Cox and Carl Lee Jr. got plenty of work in the spring.

The Red Wolves have all-conference talent at tight end in 6'5", 264-pound Darion Griswold, who figures to thrive in Anderson's system. All-Sun Belt center Bryce Giddens anchors the line, while Colton Jackson returns at right tackle and Alan Wright has experience at right guard. But the Red Wolves have to replace the left side of the line.

STAT CORNER

28

Wins by Arkansas State over the last three years, with three different head coaches. That's the most in the Red Wolves' FBS history over a three-year span.

DEFENSE The Red Wolves will still line up in a 4-2-5 system under new coordinator Joe Cauthen. Their personnel won't change in many places, either, with eight starters returning from last year's unit that ranked third among Sun Belt teams in scoring defense (26.2 ppg).

The greatest concern is the interior line, where the Red Wolves can no longer rely on Ryan Carrethers to stop the run. Dexter Blackmon, who sat out the spring with a back injury, and Darrius Rosser were key members of last year's rotation. Recruits are likely to fill in behind them. At end, the Red Wolves can count on junior Chris Stone, who led the team with 9.5 tackles for a loss last year.

All-Sun Belt linebacker Qushaun Lee, a two-time GoDaddy Bowl Defensive MVP, is a punishing hitter who led ASU with 134 tackles in 2013. Senior Kyle Coleman and sophomore Xavier Woodson lead what should be a solid supporting cast at linebacker.

The Red Wolves were burned for big pass plays early last season but improved as the year progressed. Second-team All-Sun Belt free safety Sterling Young has started 33 games. Chris Humes and Money Hunter split time at strong safety last year, while second-team All-SBC selection Rocky Hayes, Artez Brown and Andrew Tryon return at cornerback.

SPECIALISTS ASU improved dramatically in the kicking game last year, but the Red Wolves have to replace All-Sun Belt placekicker Brian Davis. Luke Ferguson, one of two punters used last season, could handle all kicking duties. McKissic averaged 30 yards on kickoff returns in 2013, tops in the Sun Belt and fourth in FBS.

FINAL ANALYSIS Coaching changes followed conference championships in each of the last three seasons at ASU. With a $3 million buyout in the first two years of his contract, Anderson figures to have a longer stay than immediate predecessors Hugh Freeze, Gus Malzahn and Bryan Harsin. The former North Carolina offensive coordinator inherits more than expectations, too. The Red Wolves figure to experience some of the typical transition issues, and there are key players to replace on both sides of the ball, but they have enough talent to contend for another Sun Belt title and bowl bid.

J.D. McKISSIC

THE QUOTE

"Fourth coach in four years. New guys trying to throw a class together. Eventually is that going to catch up to them?"

— An opposing Sun Belt assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	23	**J.D. McKissic (Jr.)**	81	Carl Lee Jr. (Fr.)
WR	15	Tres Houston (Jr.)	20	Brandon Cox (Fr.)
WR	84	Dijon Paschal (Fr.)		Tyler Trosin (Jr.)
LT	79	Jemar Clark (So.)		Kyle Harris (Jr.)
LG	58	Tyler Greve (Sr.)	64	Steven Stevens (Jr.)
C	68	**Bryce Giddens (Jr.)**	76	Austin Moreton (So.)
RG	69	Alan Wright (Sr.)	74	Devin Mondie (So.)
RT	61	**Colton Jackson (So.)**	77	Brennan Tutor (Jr.)
TE	19	**Darion Griswold (Jr.)**	87	**Kenny Rains (Sr.)**
QB	9	Fredi Knighten (Jr.)	8	Stephen Hogan (Jr.)
RB	34	Michael Gordon (Jr.)	26	DeKeathan Williams (So.)

DEFENSE (8)

DE	42	**Chris Stone (Jr.)**	99	Jabari Mathieu (Jr.)
DT	77	Dexter Blackmon (Sr.)		Charles Alexander (Jr.)
DT	92	Darrius Rosser (So.)		Chuks Ota (Fr.)
DE	90	Chris Odom (So.)	40	Ja'Von Jones (Fr.)
LB	5	**Kyle Coleman (Sr.)**	55	Xavier Woodson (So.)
LB	48	**Qushaun Lee (Sr.)**	52	Quanterio Heath (So.)
NS	6	**Frankie Jackson (Sr.)**	1	Charleston Girley (Jr.)
CB	10	**Artez Brown (Sr.)**		Blaise Taylor (Fr.)
CB	3	**Rocky Hayes (Jr.)**	24	Andrew Tryon (Sr.)
FS	11	**Sterling Young (Sr.)**	43	Raziel Valgis (Jr.)
SS	29	**Chris Humes (Jr.)**	27	Money Hunter (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	15	Luke Ferguson (Jr.)	KR 23	J.D. McKissic (Jr.)
P	15	Luke Ferguson (Jr.)	PR 23	J.D. McKissic (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Fredi Knighten, 48-34-215-1, 2 TDs
Rushing: Michael Gordon, 112 att., 754 yds., 10 TDs
Receiving: J.D. McKissic, 82 rec., 662 yds., 4 TDs
Tackles: Qushaun Lee, 134
Sacks: Chris Odom, 3; Chris Stone, 3
Interceptions: Rocky Hayes, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

GEORGIA SOUTHERN EAGLES

NATIONAL FORECAST 122
SUN BELT PREDICTION 7

Head Coach: Willie Fritz
Record at School: First Year
Career Record: 176-67-1 (21 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Doug Ruse
Defensive Coordinator: Jack Curtis
Statesboro, GA
Paulson Stadium (24,300)

2014 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 4-8, 3-5 (SUN BELT)

August	
30	at NC State
September	
6	Savannah State
13	at Georgia Tech
20	at South Alabama
25	Appalachian State
October	
4	at New Mexico State
11	Idaho
25	at Georgia State
30	Troy
November	
8	at Texas State
15	at Navy
29	UL Monroe

2013 RESULTS (7-4, 4-4)

Aug. 31	Savannah State	W	77–9
Sept. 7	Saint Francis	W	59–17
Sept. 14	at Wofford	L	20–30
Sept. 28	Chattanooga	W	23–21
Oct. 5	at Samford	L	34–44
Oct. 12	The Citadel	W	28–21
Oct. 26	at Appalachian State	L	14–38
Nov. 2	Furman	L	14–16
Nov. 9	Western Carolina	W	35–19
Nov. 16	at Elon	W	38–20
Nov. 23	at Florida	W	26-20

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Ken Thomas, RB, West Point, MS*
2. Trayvon Williams, OL, Kingsland, GA
3. Kameron Maye, WR, Mobile, AL
4. Ken Butler, LB, LaMarque, TX*
5. Darrius White, CB, Belton, TX
6. Derek Keaton, WR, Camden, AR*
7. Darrius Sapp, DT, Valdosta, GA
8. Ryan Peterson, RB, Ocilla, GA
9. Christian Taylor, OL, Lexington, SC
10. Tristan Hill, OL, Mustang, OK

*junior college transfer

2013 STATS

Offense	Per Game
Scoring	33.5 ppg
Rushing	360.4 ypg
Passing	91.1 ypg
Total	451.5 ypg
Defense	**Per Game**
Scoring	23.2 ppg
Rushing	160.4 ypg
Passing	200.1 ypg
Total	360.5 ypg
TO Margin	**Per Game**
-5	-0.5

OFFENSE When Jeff Monken left for Army, Georgia Southern elected to move away from the triple-option offense in hiring Willie Fritz, who took Sam Houston State to the FCS title game in 2011 and '12. Though Fritz will keep elements of the same scheme to fit the personnel he's inheriting, Georgia Southern will look much more like a spread-option team. The Eagles will throw between 15 and 25 times per game as opposed to the 79 total passes returning quarterback Kevin Ellison attempted last year.

"The guys we have here definitely can run our system," Fritz says. "Ellison has shown me a lot, and he can throw the football. I see a lot of ability out on the perimeter for a team that hadn't thrown the ball very much, and we've got some excellent players along the offensive line. The unknown is our running back position."

Though there's never an easy transition from FCS to FBS, the Eagles have enough size and experience up front to compete offensively right away. Besides Ellison, Georgia Southern returns a trio of two-year senior starters on its offensive line and a pair of receivers in Zach Walker and BJ Johnson. Fritz also is high on the abilities of 6'2", 255-pound junior Nardo Govan, who is moving from fullback to tight end.

Though Ellison is only a sophomore, his proven ability as a runner (127 attempts for 886 yards and eight touchdowns) will make the Eagles tough to defend if he can pick up the new offense quickly.

STAT CORNER

10

Offensive linemen who started at least one game for Georgia Southern in an injury-plagued 2013 season.

DEFENSE The only coaching holdover from Monken's staff is defensive coordinator Jack Curtis, whose unit was solid but not spectacular last season. Though the Eagles return five starters, they are going to be undersized and not particularly deep, especially up front. That's not a great combination as they transition to a tougher FBS schedule.

Fritz knows they have two capable linebackers in Edwin Jackson and Antwione Williams, but whether Georgia Southern can find more capable backers will determine whether they play more 4-3 or 4-2-5. The defensive backfield should be a strength as starting safeties Matt Dobson and Deion Stanley return after combining for five interceptions last season. Senior cornerback Valdon Cooper has "big-time ability," according to Fritz, but he needs to play more consistently.

Georgia Southern only generated 12 total turnovers last season, including a mere two fumble recoveries, so improving those numbers will be paramount to its defensive success in 2014.

SPECIALISTS Fritz plans to tweak Georgia Southern's coverage and return schemes, and he'll also have three placekickers to evaluate in the fall. Sophomore Younghoe Koo made 5-of-6 field goals last season, while junior Alex Hanks handled kickoffs but was the primary placekicker in 2012. Connor Tierney also returns after going 14-for-14 on extra points but 0-for-2 on field goals.

FINAL ANALYSIS In an otherwise average 2013 season, Georgia Southern received significant attention on Nov. 23 for beating Florida, 26–20, in its first-ever victory over an FBS opponent. Though some at Georgia Southern might have seen that performance as validation for the school's decision to move up to FBS, there are still significant challenges ahead. It will also be a new experience for Fritz, who has moved up the ladder from junior colleges to Division II Central Missouri, where he went 97–47, to his wildly successful run at Sam Houston State.

Though the Eagles had a solid structure in place before making the move, there are plenty of unknowns. "Instead of slaying one dragon a year," Fritz says, "we've got to do it with great consistency. We've got to get a lot better."

KEVIN ELLISON

AP Photo/John Raoux

THE QUOTE

"Everyone in the conference hopes the new coach goes to the spread. No opposing team wants to see the option."

— An opposing Sun Belt assistant coach

OFFENSE (4)

WR	81	BJ Johnson (Jr.)	80	Kentrellis Showers (Sr.)
WR	9	Zach Walker (Sr.)	**26**	**Tray Butler (Sr.)**
LT	**58**	**Garrett Frye (Sr.)**	73	Maurice Hunt (Jr.)
LG	**76**	**Trevor McBurnett (Sr.)**	63	Darien Foreman (Jr.)
C	**75**	**Manrey Saint-Amour (Sr.)**	74	Logan Daves (Sr.)
RG	53	Jeff Ward (Jr.)		Trayvon Williams (Fr.)
RG	70	Raymond Klugey (Sr.)		Christian Taylor (Fr.)
TE	42	Nardo Govan (Jr.)	94	Tre Griffin (So.)
QB	4	Kevin Ellison (So.)	13	Favian Upshaw (So.)
RB	41	Ken Thomas (Jr.)	28	Devin Scott (Sr.)
RB	22	Irving Huggins (So.)	28	Devin Scott (Sr.)

DEFENSE (5)

DE	**46**	**Rafael Hardee (So.)**	95	Deonte Dempsey (So.)
DT	92	Johnathan Battle (Jr.)	91	Justice Ejike (Sr.)
DT	93	Rashad Williams (Sr.)	99	Jay Ellison (So.)
DE	54	Lennie Richardson (Jr.)	56	Bernard Dawson (So.)
OLB	**40**	**Edwin Jackson (Sr.)**	48	Patrick Flowe (Jr.)
MLB	37	Antwione Williams (Jr.)		Kurt Oehlbeck (Fr.)
OLB		Ken Butler (So.)		Laderrick Roberts (Jr.)
CB	21	Nick Wright (Sr.)	**14**	**Tay Hicklin (Jr.)**
CB	30	Valdon Cooper (Sr.)	5	Darius Jones (So.)
FS	**7**	**Matt Dobson (Jr.)**	25	Robert Brice (So.)
SS	**29**	**Deion Stanley (Sr.)**	16	Antonio Glover (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	9	Younghoe Koo (So.)	KR	36	Matthew Breida (So.)
P	49	Ryan Nowicki (Jr.)	PR	17	Brandan Thomas (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Kevin Ellison, 79-41-756-3, 2 TDs
Rushing: Kevin Ellison, 127 att., 886 yds., 8 TDs
Receiving: BJ Johnson, 12 rec., 216 yds., 0 TDs
Tackles: Edwin Jackson, 92
Sacks: Johnathan Battle, 3.0
Interceptions: Deion Stanley, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

GEORGIA STATE PANTHERS

NATIONAL FORECAST **126**
SUN BELT PREDICTION **10**

Head Coach: Trent Miles
Record at School: 0-12 (1 year)
Career Record: 20-48 (6 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Jeff Jagodzinski
Defensive Coordinator: Jesse Minter
Atlanta, GA
Georgia Dome (71,228)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 2-10, 1-7 (SUN BELT)

August	
27	Abilene Christian
September	
6	New Mexico State
13	Air Force
20	at Washington
October	
4	at UL Lafayette
11	Arkansas State
18	at South Alabama
25	Georgia Southern
November	
1	at Appalachian State
8	at Troy
22	at Clemson
29	Texas State

2013 RESULTS (0-12, 0-7)

Aug. 30	Samford	L	21-31
Sept. 7	Chattanooga	L	14-42
Sept. 14	at West Virginia	L	7-41
Sept. 21	Jacksonville State	L	26-32
Oct. 5	at Alabama	L	3-45
Oct. 12	Troy	L	28-35
Oct. 19	at Texas State	L	17-24
Oct. 26	at UL Monroe	L	10-38
Nov. 2	Western Kentucky	L	28-44
Nov. 16	UL Lafayette	L	21-35
Nov. 23	at Arkansas State	L	33-35
Nov. 30	South Alabama	L	17-38

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Nick Arbuckle, QB, Camarillo, CA*
2. Marcus Caffey, CB, Atlanta, GA*
3. Antreal Allen, CB, Auburn, AL
4. Sheldon Wynn, S, Miami, FL
5. Ed Curney, LB, Atlanta, GA
6. Malik Ricks, LB, Stone Mountain, GA
7. Ari Werts, TE, Stone Mountain, GA
8. Emiere Scaife, QB, Charlotte, NC
9. Maaseiah Francis, WR, Norcross, GA
10. Gabe Mobley, OT, Moultrie, GA

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Sun Belt
Scoring	18.8 ppg	8
Rushing	102.3 ypg	8
Passing	253.0 ypg	3
Total	355.3 ypg	7
Defense	**Per Game**	
Scoring	36.7 ppg	8
Rushing	221.3 ypg	8
Passing	245.3 ypg	6
Total	466.5 ypg	7
TO Margin	**Per Game**	
-7	-0.6	6

OFFENSE If there was one bright spot in an otherwise brutal transition to the FBS level, it's the production Georgia State got out of quarterback Ronnie Bell. The transfer from Ohio threw for 2,573 yards and 15 touchdowns in his first season as a starter. But just because Bell has experience doesn't mean he'll be under center for the Panthers' opener. In hopes of increasing competition across the board and jolting an offense that averaged a Sun Belt-worst 18.8 points per game, coach Trent Miles brought in three-star recruit Nick Arbuckle, who threw for 2,852 yards and 26 touchdowns at Pierce (Calif.) College, and Emiere Scaife, who has good size and arm strength for a true freshman.

Georgia State comes in with plenty of question marks after losing six offensive linemen to graduation as well as productive receiver Albert Wilson, who accounted for nearly 1,200 yards. Still, identifying a quarterback will be the No. 1 priority for an offense that converted a league-worst 33 percent of its third downs and gave up 32 sacks.

Besides offensive line, where the Panthers signed three junior college players in hopes of a quick makeover, the biggest concern will be depth at wide receiver, where they had just three scholarship players go through spring practice. Miles hopes Michael Harrison, a 5'7" running back/slot receiver who accounted for 1,536 yards last season in junior college, can provide some playmaking pop.

STAT CORNER

8

Average yards to go for Georgia State on third down. When it went wrong for the Panthers, it went wrong quickly.

DEFENSE Lack of size and strength was noticeable on the defensive side of the ball last season, and particularly up front, where the Panthers allowed a league-worst 221.2 rushing yards per game. That wasn't a surprise, however, given that the Panthers' most talented players were true freshmen. A full offseason in the weight room has done wonders for sophomore defensive linemen Shawayne Lawrence and Tevin Jones, who Miles expects to provide a foundation for future success in the trenches.

Sophomore Mackendy Cheridor and junior Joseph Peterson, who was honorable mention All-Sun Belt after a 103-tackle season, bring plenty of starting experience to the linebacking corps. The question mark will be in the secondary, where Georgia State lost eight defensive backs and will try to fill in gaps with junior college talent — cornerback Marcus Caffey was highly-rated coming out of Iowa Western — and by moving junior Tarris Batiste to safety after recording 77 tackles at linebacker last season.

Regardless of who plays in the secondary, generating more turnovers will be crucial for a unit that snagged just six total interceptions, and only four by defensive backs, in 346 passing attempts last season.

SPECIALISTS Former walk-on punter Matt Hubbard had no problem making the transition from FCS last season, earning third team All-Sun Belt honors after averaging 42.0 yards on 78 punts. Placekicker Wil Lutz also returns after making 8-of-12 field goals last season, including a 53-yarder against Alabama.

FINAL ANALYSIS Entering its fifth year of existence overall and second as an FBS program, Georgia State has experienced very little success, winning just once over the past two seasons. As players who were recruited for the FCS level cycle out of the program — including 27 seniors last season — the opportunity exists for Miles to upgrade the roster's size, speed and depth. Still, the Panthers are probably two recruiting classes away from getting their numbers up to par, and in the meantime will have to rely heavily on underclassmen for production.

The Panthers were competitive at times in 2013, losing three times in conference play by a touchdown or less, but they're still closer to the beginning than the end of a long rebuilding process.

JOSEPH PETERSON

Paul Abell/Abell Images

THE QUOTE

"They are going to be a very good team in the future. They were young last year. They had an active defensive line."

— An opposing Sun Belt assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	13	Lynquez Blair (Sr.)	9	Donovan Harden (Jr.)
WR	**19**	**Robert Davis (So.)**	87	Nathaniel Minor (Jr.)
LT	75	Michael Ivory (So.)	58	Jah-Mai Davidson (So.)
LG	**77**	**A.J. Kaplan (Sr.)**	63	Davis Moore (Fr.)
C	65	Taylor Evans (Jr.)	**50**	**Tim Wynn (Sr.)**
RG	56	Alex Stoehr (Fr.)	59	Garrett Gorringe (So.)
RT	70	Steve Wolgamott (Jr.)	83	Sebastian Willer (Fr.)
TE	88	Joel Ruiz (Jr.)	**45**	**Keith Rucker (So.)**
QB	4	Nick Arbuckle (Jr.)	**18**	**Ronnie Bell (Jr.)**
RB		Michael Harrison (Jr.)		Krysten Hammon (Jr.)
RB	25	Kyler Neal (So.)	14	Duvall Smith (Sr.)

DEFENSE (4)

DE	**85**	**Shawayne Lawrence (So.)**	55	Carnell Hopson (So.)
DT	97	Jalen Lawrence (So.)	67	David Huey (Jr.)
DT	62	Will Cunningham (Fr.)	91	Nermin Delic (Sr.)
DE	52	Tevin Jones (So.)	53	Tanner Strickland (So.)
OLB	**43**	**Mackendy Cheridor (So.)**	46	Jarrell Robinson (Sr.)
MLB	**44**	**Joseph Peterson (Jr.)**	47	Sean Jeppesen (Sr.)
OLB	99	Melvin King (Jr.)		Malik Ricks (Fr.)
CB	27	Bruce Dukes (Jr.)		Antreal Allen (Fr.)
CB	24	Marcus Caffey (Jr.)	26	Shawn Blaylock (So.)
FS	**3**	**Tarris Batiste (Jr.)**	20	LaDarion Young (So.)
SS		Sheldon Wynn (Jr.)	37	Trent Hill (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	96	Wil Lutz (Jr.)	KR	19	Robert Davis (So.)
P	49	Matt Hubbard (Sr.)	PR		Michael Harrison (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Ronnie Bell, 375-188-2,573-11, 15 TDs
Rushing: Jonathan Jean-Bart, 71 att., 269 yds., 1 TD
Receiving: Robert Davis, 44 rec., 711 yds., 4 TDs
Tackles: Joseph Peterson, 103
Sacks: Joseph Peterson, 2.0; Jarrell Robinson, 2.0
Interceptions: Tarris Batiste, 1; Jarrell Robinson, 1

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

IDAHO VANDALS

NATIONAL FORECAST **125**
SUN BELT PREDICTION **9**

Head Coach: Paul Petrino
Record at School: 1-11 (1 year)
Career Record: 1-11 (1 year)
Offensive Coordinator: Kris Cinkovich
Defensive Coordinator: Ronnie Lee
Moscow, ID
Kibbie Dome (16,000)

2014 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 2-10, 2-6 (SUN BELT)

August	
30	at Florida
September	
6	at UL Monroe
13	Western Michigan
20	at Ohio
27	South Alabama
October	
4	at Texas State
11	at Georgia Southern
18	New Mexico State
November	
1	Arkansas State
8	at San Diego State
15	Troy
29	at Appalachian State

2013 RESULTS (1-11)

Aug. 31	at North Texas	L	6–40
Sept. 7	at Wyoming	L	10–42
Sept. 14	Northern Illinois	L	35–45
Sept. 21	at Washington State	L	0–42
Sept. 28	Temple	W	26–24
Oct. 5	Fresno State	L	14–61
Oct. 12	at Arkansas State	L	24–48
Oct. 26	at Ole Miss	L	14–59
Nov. 2	Texas State	L	21–37
Nov. 9	Old Dominion	L	38–59
Nov. 23	at Florida State	L	14–80
Nov. 30	at New Mexico State	L	16–24

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Michael Garner, ATH, San Diego, CA
2. Aaron Duckworth, RB, Orange Park, FL
3. Irving Steele, LB, Ft. Lauderdale, FL*
4. Tony Lashley, LB, Elk Grove, MO
5. Alfonso Hampton, DT, San Diego, CA*
6. Jake Luton, QB, Lake Stevens, WA
7. Kato Fawkes, OL, Freeport, BS*
8. Elijhaa Penny, RB, Lakewood, CA*
9. Daniel Peterson, LB, Litchfield Park, AZ*
10. Dennis Rufus, DB, Glendora, CA*

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	National
Scoring	18.2 ppg	115
Rushing	137.5 ypg	96
Passing	230.8 ypg	65
Total	368.3 ypg	90
Defense	**Per Game**	**National**
Scoring	46.8 ppg	123
Rushing	213.6 ypg	104
Passing	315.8 ypg	122
Total	529.4 ypg	121
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**National**
-8	-0.7	107

OFFENSE The No. 1 question for coach Paul Petrino is at quarterback. Sophomore Chad Chalich, who started seven games before sustaining a season-ending shoulder injury, is being pushed by redshirt freshman Matt Linehan. Chalich completed 61.4 percent of his passes but only threw five touchdown passes (and three INTs) in 184 attempts.

The winner of the job — right now, Linehan is penciled in as the starter — will operate behind an offensive line that returns nine players who have started at some point during their careers. The challenge for Petrino and his staff will be piecing the unit together. The best of the bunch is senior center Mike Marboe, who has played since his freshman season.

As far as the skill positions, receiver Dezmon Epps is Idaho's top threat. He caught at least four passes in every game last season and scored four touchdowns. Physically gifted wideout Deon Watson and converted quarterback Josh McCain also give Idaho's passing game a boost.

The Vandals likely will use a committee at running back, with Jerrel Brown, Richard Montgomery and Kristoffer Olugbode providing different skill sets that need to produce better than the 3.3 yards per carry Idaho averaged a year ago. If Idaho can be somewhat balanced, the Vandals should be able to score some points this season.

STAT CORNER

16

Junior college transfers signed by Idaho in its 2014 recruiting class. There's no time like the present.

DEFENSE Things got so bad last season in the secondary for Idaho that coaches had to put wide receivers in on defense to try and slow down opposing passing attacks. The lack of speed was glaring and a huge reason why opponents scored 40 or more points nine times last season, including an 80-point performance by eventual national champion Florida State. For the Vandals to be a factor in the Sun Belt, the defense has to improve.

The top four tacklers from last season return, and there is talent on the defensive front that could generate a pass rush to help out the secondary. Quayshawne Buckley recorded 7.5 sacks last season and joins a front that has size and experience. Marc Millan led Idaho with 90 tackles from the linebacker position, which was strengthened with the addition of junior college transfer Irving Steele.

The secondary remains the biggest concern, though. Even though safety Bradley Njoku (89 tackles) and corner Jayshawn Jordan (77) return, Idaho needs to get better play from the secondary to have any chance of a winning season.

SPECIALISTS Austin Rehkow handled the kicking and punting duties as a freshman. His punting was proficient, but his inconsistency in kicking field goals will need to change if Idaho is going to capitalize on scoring chances. He made only 10-of-17 attempts last season with a long of just 41 yards. The Vandals did not return a punt or a kickoff for a score in 2013, but Epps and Montgomery both averaged more than 20 yards per kickoff return.

FINAL ANALYSIS Things can't get any worse for Idaho, right? The Vandals are coming off a 1–11 season in which they weren't very competitive as an independent. The Sun Belt Conference once again is home, which will lower the degree of difficulty on the schedule (Florida is the only major-conference opponent). But the conference affiliation brings additional travel — the Vandals will play half of their games in the Eastern and Central time zones.

If Petrino can overcome the travel and find some consistency in all phases, Idaho has a chance at making some noise in the overhauled conference. But even if the Vandals do surprise and find a way to get to six wins, they will not be spending the holidays at a bowl game. It was announced in late April that low APR scores had made the program ineligible for a postseason game in 2014.

DEZMON EPPS

Idaho SID

THE QUOTE

"They had a couple of skill kids, but overall their offensive line was bad and their defensive personnel was not very good."

— An opposing assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	1	**Dezmon Epps (Sr.)**	13	Buck Cowan (So.)
WR	8	Josh McCain (Sr.)	3	Rueben Mwehla (Fr.)
WR	83	**Deon Watson (So.)**	80	Jacob Sannon (So.)
Y	16	Justin Podrabsky (Sr.)	84	Jared Klingenberg (Jr.)
QT	70	**Niklaus Von Rotz (Sr.)**	66	Jeff Travillion (Jr.)
QG	61	**Steven Matlock (So.)**	60	**Cody Elenz (Jr.)**
C	74	**Mike Marboe (Sr.)**	68	Sione Maile (Sr.)
SG	69	Kato Fawkes (So.)	55	Dallas Sandberg (Jr.)
ST	67	Mason Woods (So.)	63	Calvin White (So.)
QB	10	Matt Linehan (Fr.)	11	**Chad Chalich (So.)**
RB	24	Jerrel Brown (Sr.)	4	Richard Montgomery (So.)

DEFENSE (6)

DE	40	**Maxx Forde (Sr.)**	5	Anthony Rice (Sr.)
NT	55	Ryan Edwards (Jr.)	97	Max Martial (Jr.)
DT	57	Quayshawne Buckley (Sr.)	44	Tueni Lupeamanu (So.)
RE	43	Quinton Bradley (Jr.)	90	Zach Cable (So.)
SLB	23	**Marc Millan (Jr.)**	1	James Randall (Sr.)
MLB	10	Broc Westlake (Jr.)	41	**Juan Martinez (Sr.)**
WLB	3	Irving Steele (Jr.)	8	**Eric Tuipulotu (Sr.)**
CB	4	**Jayshawn Jordan (Jr.)**	14	Armond Hawkins (Fr.)
CB	27	Delency Parham (Sr.)	25	Desmond Banks (So.)
FS	21	Jordan Grabski (So.)	7	Doyin Sule (Jr.)
SS	2	**Bradley Njoku (Sr.)**	46	Russell Siavii (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	5	Austin Rehkow (So.)	KR	4	Richard Montgomery (So.)
P	5	Austin Rehkow (So.)	PR	1	Dezmon Epps (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Chad Chalich, 184-113-1,224-3, 5 TDs
Rushing: Josh McCain, 54 att., 223 yds., 1 TD
Receiving: Dezmon Epps, 79 rec., 980 yds., 4 TDs
Tackles: Marc Millan, 90
Sacks: Quayshawne Buckley, 7.5
Interceptions: 3 players tied with 1

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

NEW MEXICO STATE AGGIES

NATIONAL FORECAST **128**
SUN BELT PREDICTION **11**

Head Coach: Doug Martin
Record at School: 2-10 (1 year)
Career Record: 31-63 (8 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Gregg Brandon
Defensive Coordinator: Larry Coyer
Las Cruces, NM
Aggie Memorial Stadium (30,343)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 2-10, 1-7 SUN BELT)

August	
28	Cal Poly
September	
6	at Georgia State
13	at UTEP
20	New Mexico
27	at LSU
October	
4	Georgia Southern
11	at Troy
18	at Idaho
November	
1	Texas State
8	UL Lafayette
22	ULM
29	at Arkansas State

2013 RESULTS (2-10)

Aug. 31	at Texas	L	7–56
Sept. 7	Minnesota	L	21–44
Sept. 14	UTEP	L	21–42
Sept. 21	at UCLA	L	13–59
Sept. 28	San Diego State	L	16–26
Oct. 5	at New Mexico	L	17–66
Oct. 19	Rice	L	19–45
Oct. 26	Abilene Christian	W	34–29
Nov. 2	at UL Lafayette	L	35–49
Nov. 9	Boston College	L	34–48
Nov. 23	at Florida Atlantic	L	10–55
Nov. 30	Idaho	W	24–16

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Nick Jeanty, QB, Miramar, FL
2. Tyler Rogers, QB, Peoria, AZ*
3. Larry Rose, RB, Fairfield, TX
4. Royce Caldwell, RB, Columbus, TX
5. Austin Davenport LB, Saugus, CA
6. Derek Ibewe, LB, Rosenberg, TX
7. Nate Grimm, QB, Cedar Park, TX
8. Jalen Jones, QB, Millersville, MD
9. Andrew Allen, QB, Texas City, TX
10. Jacob Nwanga, S, Arlington, TX

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	National
Scoring	20.9 ppg	103
Rushing	144.3 ypg	88
Passing	240.9 ypg	55
Total	385.2 ypg	81
Defense	**Per Game**	**National**
Scoring	44.6 ppg	120
Rushing	299.5 ypg	123
Passing	250.0 ypg	91
Total	549.5 ypg	123
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**National**
-6	-0.5	97

OFFENSE The Aggies suffered a big blow in the offseason when junior wide receiver Austin Franklin elected to leave school early for the NFL Draft. Franklin supplied the team with a big-play threat on offense — after his return from a four-game academic suspension, the Aggies averaged 27.4 points over the final five games (compared to just 16 during the previous seven).

NMSU does, however return a veteran receiving corps, with six seniors and a junior on the two-deep.

At quarterback, junior college transfer Tyler Rogers took the majority of the snaps during spring practices, and the team will bring in five freshmen to compete for the starting job spot this fall. Redshirt freshman Barry Coffman will also be in the mix.

Ditto for running back, where Xavier Hall returns after a good second half to the 2013 season. Hall had 95 yards against Boston College and 74 against Florida Atlantic in consecutive games in November. Redshirt freshman Marquette Washington and a handful of incoming freshmen will compete for carries.

The offensive line appears to be relatively stable. Senior center Valerian Ume-Ezeoke is entering his fourth year as a starter, while Andy Cunningham is a junior who's started at guard and tackle. The two guards — Isaiah Folasa-Lutui and Abram Holland — are also returning. The team does need to solidify the all-important left tackle position, however, as steady four-year starter Davonte Wallace graduated.

STAT CORNER

-7.4

New Mexico State's starting field position margin. The Aggies were behind the opponent before a drive even began.

DEFENSE This is a brand-new unit with a brand-new coordinator. With nearly 50 years experience coaching in college and the NFL, Larry Coyer joined the Aggie program this offseason.

This was an abysmal group last year, one that ranked dead last in the NCAA in rush defense (299.5 ypg) and total defense (549.5 ypg) and No. 120 in scoring defense (44.6 ppg). Only two starters return from that group.

It starts in the secondary, where a drastically different look will take shape in 2014. Two converted quarterbacks — Travaughn Colwell and King Davis III — were getting looks in the defensive backfield during spring practices. Again, look for incoming freshmen to get a shot here.

The same goes for the front seven, where just a handful of experienced players return. Somehow, Coyer will have to find a way for his defense to generate a pass rush. The Aggies recorded only 11 sacks last year; only one team had fewer. New Mexico State is hopeful that defensive end Clint Barnard and middle linebacker Rodney Butler can make a positive impact.

SPECIALISTS This was another area of struggle last year, specifically the team's kick coverage units. NMSU gave up touchdowns both in kick and punt coverage, and surrendered a blocked extra point, two blocked field goals and two blocked punts last year. In terms of kicking, the Aggies must replace standout punter Cayle Chapman-Brown. Placekicker Maxwell Johnson returns after a solid performance in 2013 (10-of-12 on field goals).

FINAL ANALYSIS The Aggies are a team in transition, if for no other reason than their youth and inexperience. The program signed 23 freshmen, a number of whom will be counted on this year.

The team does have a much more manageable schedule this season, moving to the Sun Belt Conference after competing as an FBS Independent. After winning only two games in Doug Martin's first season as head coach, there will be pressure on the Aggies to be competitive with the lower half of the new-look Sun Belt. It will be a troubling sign if New Mexico State struggles with FBS newcomers like Georgia State and Georgia Southern.

JERREL BROWN

AP Photo/Chris Carlson

THE QUOTE

"Their head coach is doing it the high school route, not doing a big junior college overhaul. Trying to do it the right way."

— An opposing assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	7	Adam Shapiro (Sr.)	**5**	**Joseph Matthews (Sr.)**
WR	89	Andrew Dean (Sr.)	15	Anthony Joyner (Sr.)
WR	6	Joshua Bowen (Jr.)	83	Teldrick Morgan (So.)
WR	**17**	**Jerrel Brown (Sr.)**	11	Jordan Bergstrom (Sr.)
LT	77	Houston Clemente (Jr.)	72	Peter Foreman (So.)
LG	**62**	**Isaiah Folasa-Lutui (Jr.)**	56	Matt Ramando (Jr.)
C	**55**	**Valerian Ume-Ezeoke (Sr.)**		Jamin Smith (Fr.)
RG	**50**	**Abram Holland (So.)**	65	Ryan Arbelaez (Sr.)
RT	**70**	**Andy Cunningham (Jr.)**	51	Thomas McGwire (Fr.)
QB	18	Tyler Rogers (So.)	8	Barry Coffman (Fr.)
RB	22	Xavier Hall (So.)	24	Marquette Washington (Fr.)

DEFENSE (2)

DE	37	Noah Brown (So.)	99	Stephen Meredith (Jr.)
NT	92	Mason Russell (Sr.)	69	Alexander Trujillo (Jr.)
DT	48	Kalei Auelua (So.)	73	Keanu Higgins (Fr.)
DE	**13**	**Clint Barnard (Sr.)**	52	Jay Eakins (Sr.)
SLB	46	Dior Moore (Sr.)		Austin Davenport (Fr.)
MLB	53	Rodney Butler (So.)	45	Dalton Rocha (Fr.)
WLB	14	Jaden Wright (Fr.)	21	Jermichael Selders (Jr.)
CB	4	Winston Rose (Sr.)	3	King Davis III (So.)
CB	**29**	**Lewis Hill (Jr.)**	10	Kedeem Thomas-Davis (Jr.)
FS	1	Travaughn Colwell (Sr.)		Jacob Nwangwa (Fr.)
SS	16	Kawe Johnson (So.)	26	Thomas Warren (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	18	Maxwell Johnson (Sr.)	KR	7	Adam Shapiro (Sr.)
P	41	Brock Baca (Jr.)	PR	2	Gregory Hogan (Fr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: King Davis III, 50-26-371-1, 2 TDs
Rushing: Brandon Betancourt, 93 att., 415 yds., 2 TDs
Receiving: Joshua Bowen, 39 rec., 324 yds., 2 TDs
Tackles: Clint Barnard, 67
Sacks: Clint Barnard, 1; Jay Eakins, 1
Interceptions: Kawe Johnson, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

SOUTH ALABAMA JAGUARS

NATIONAL FORECAST **84**
SUN BELT PREDICTION **2**

Head Coach: Joey Jones
Record at School: 31-21 (5 years)
Career Record: 34-28 (6 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Robert Matthews
Defensive Coordinator: Travis Pearson
Mobile, AL
Ladd-Peebles Stadium (33,471)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 8-4, 7-1 (SUN BELT)

September	
6	at Kent State
13	Mississippi State
20	Georgia Southern
27	at Idaho
October	
4	at Appalachian State
18	Georgia State
24	Troy
November	
1	at UL Lafayette
8	at Arkansas State
15	Texas State
22	at South Carolina
28	Navy

2013 RESULTS (6-6, 4-3)

Aug. 29	Southern Utah	L	21–22
Sept. 7	at Tulane	W	41–39
Sept. 14	Western Kentucky	W	31–24
Sept. 28	at Tennessee	L	24–31
Oct. 5	at Troy	L	33–34
Oct. 19	Kent State	W	38–21
Oct. 26	at Texas State	L	31–33
Nov. 2	Arkansas State	L	16–17
Nov. 16	at Navy	L	14–42
Nov. 23	UL Monroe	W	36–14
Nov. 30	at Georgia State	W	38–17
Dec. 7	at UL Lafayette	W	30–8

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Jimmie Gipson III, DE, Coldwater, MS*
2. Malcolm Buggs, DB, Opelika, AL
3. Corliss Waitman, P, Milton, FL
4. Darian Mills, DB, Winter Haven, FL
5. Braedon Bowman, TE, Mesa, AZ*
6. Bryson Johnson, DL, Champlin, MN*
7. Nigel Green, S, Flowood, MS*
8. CJ Johnson, DB, Douglas, GA
9. Marice Fluellen, DB, Dothan, AL
10. Jeremy Reaves, DB, Pensacola, FL

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Sun Belt	National
Scoring	29.4 ppg	4	63
Rushing	172.8 ypg	4	60
Passing	252.8 ypg	3	42
Total	425.5 ypg	3	50
Defense	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**	**National**
Scoring	25.2 ppg	2	53
Rushing	159.7 ypg	3	55
Passing	224.6 ypg	2	56
Total	384.3 ypg	2	50
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**	**National**
+5	+0.4	2	31

OFFENSE All the parts are in place for South Alabama to have the best offensive squad in the program's six-year history — if the team can answer its question at quarterback. Surrounded by a plethora of returning skill players and eight starters overall, Brandon Bridge takes over under center. The 6'5" Canadian showed promise as a dual-threat backup last season, but his consistency and decision-making must be cleaned up in the full-time role.

"Brandon can make a lot of plays, and I sat on my back porch last season trying to decide if he was going to be our starter back then," USA coach Joey Jones says. "But we went with (All-Sun Belt senior Ross Metheny). Now it's Brandon's time. And he's in the same spot as any quarterback from little league football to college, where he just has to stay away from mistakes."

USA's top three running backs and top four pass-catchers are back, led by first-team All-Sun Belt tight end Wes Saxton. That receiving corps should be even deeper with the addition of Alabama transfers Josh Magee and Marvin Shinn. Up front, two all-conference tackles return in Chris May and Ucambre Williams to anchor a line that allowed the fewest sacks in the Sun Belt last season.

DEFENSE Travis Pearson takes over as defensive coordinator, promoted from linebackers coach after former defensive play-caller Kevin Sherrer took a position on Georgia's staff. Pearson will try to continue the focus on strong play up front, but USA must replace first-team all-conference defensive linemen Alex Page and Romelle Jones.

Led by returning nose tackle Jerome McClain, junior college All-America end Jimmie Gipson III and playmaking linebacker Maleki Harris, the front seven should be solid once again, but depth may be a concern at multiple positions.

"At defensive end, we feel good. But with those inside guys, we have depth issues right now," Jones says. "We need some junior college guys to play in those spots right away."

Four starters return for a nickel-heavy secondary that allowed the second-fewest passing yards in the Sun Belt last season, but that performance came with the support of a strong pass rush. This season's secondary may have to lead rather than follow.

STAT CORNER

9.3

Defensive sack rate — which ranked third nationally behind Louisville and Virginia Tech — by South Alabama last season. The Jaguars have to replicate great numbers with a revamped pass rush.

SPECIALISTS Placekicker Aleem Sunanon made his final 12 field-goal attempts and ranked second in the Sun Belt in scoring as a freshman in 2013, and his return solidifies the position for the next three years. USA's coverage teams have been stingy, but a new punter must emerge. The return game is in good hands with Magee and T.J. Glover.

FINAL ANALYSIS USA finished its first full-fledged season of FBS play with bowl eligibility (6–6 record) and one win shy of the Sun Belt title. Now the bar is raised, and the Jaguars are no longer the ever-changing conference's newcomer.

"We are not a veteran in this conference by any means, but things have changed quickly," Jones says. "We were about a play or two away from winning a conference championship and going to a bowl. There is some pep in our step."

Taking another step forward is plausible but carries conditions. Last year's team won by committing very few turnovers on offense and causing disruption on the defensive front. The 2014 squad must do the same with a new quarterback and new starters on the defensive line. After a tough home opener against Mississippi State, the Jaguars face five consecutive winnable conference games before difficult road trips to UL Lafayette and Arkansas State. If the Jaguars are riding a winning streak at midseason, title contention could be a possibility.

SHAVAREZ SMITH

Scott Donaldson

THE QUOTE

"They're as good as any team in the Sun Belt. The quarterback graduated, but they have a productive stable of running backs."

— An opposing Sun Belt assistant coach

OFFENSE (8)

WR	1	**Shavarez Smith (Jr.)**	24	T.J. Glover (Jr.)
WR	11	**Jereme Jones (Jr.)**	9	Josh Magee (Fr.)
WR	18	Danny Woodson II (So.)	2	Marvin Shinn (So.)
LT	76	**Ucambre Williams (Jr.)**	65	Harrison Louden (Fr.)
LG	72	**Drew Dearman (Jr.)**	77	Melvin Meggs (Jr.)
C	66	Joseph Scelfo (Fr.)	51	Daniel Aust (Fr.)
RG	73	**Shaun Artz (Jr.)**	74	Steven Foster (Fr.)
RT	55	**Chris May (So.)**	75	Clay Machen (Fr.)
TE	13	**Wes Saxton (Jr.)**	10	Braedon Bowman (So.)
QB	7	Brandon Bridge (Jr.)	16	Trey Fetner (So.)
RB	8	**Jay Jones (Jr.)**	29	Kendall Houston (Jr.)

DEFENSE (6)

DE	40	Jimmie Gipson III (So.)	46	Ridge James (Sr.)
NT	98	Jerome McClain (Jr.)	55	DeMarion Harper (So.)
DT	67	**Jesse Kelley (Jr.)**	96	Jacob Chaffin (Fr.)
DE	84	Theo Rich (Jr.)	52	Akeem Lewis (Jr.)
SLB	6	**Maleki Harris (Jr.)**	21	Cordivido Grice (So.)
MLB	34	Desmond LaVelle (Jr.)	11	Davin Hawkins (Jr.)
CB	22	**Qudarius Ford (Jr.)**	1	Anthony Harris (Jr.)
CB	16	**Montell Garner (Jr.)**	43	Marcus Jackson (Fr.)
FS	18	**Terrell Brigham (Jr.)**	19	Steffon Fuller (Jr.)
SS	23	Roman Buchanan (Fr.)	20	Steven Fuller (Jr.)
N	14	**Antonio Carter (So.)**	13	Devon Earl (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	97	Aleem Sunanon (So.)	KR	9	Josh Magee (Fr.)
P	39	Brandon McKee (Fr.)	PR	24	T.J. Glover (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Brandon Bridge, 66-29-398-2, 1 TD
Rushing: Jay Jones, 143 att., 737 yds., 5 TDs
Receiving: Shavarez Smith, 50 rec., 940 yds., 6 TDs
Tackles: Qudarius Ford, 76
Sacks: Jerome McClain, 3
Interceptions: Montell Garner, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

TEXAS STATE BOBCATS

NATIONAL FORECAST **113**
SUN BELT PREDICTION **6**

Head Coach: Dennis Franchione
Record at School: 29-29 (5 years)
Career Record: 203-121-2 (28 years)
Offensive Co-Coordinators: Jeff Conway, Mike Schultz
Defensive Coordinator: John Thompson
San Marcos, TX
Bobcat Stadium (30,000)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 5-7, 4-4 (SUN BELT)

August	
30	Arkansas-Pine Bluff
September	
13	Navy
20	at Illinois
27	at Tulsa
October	
4	Idaho
14	UL Lafayette
25	at ULM
November	
1	at New Mexico State
8	Georgia Southern
15	at South Alabama
20	Arkansas State
29	at Georgia State

2013 RESULTS (6-6, 2-5)

Aug. 31	at Southern Miss	W	22–15
Sept. 7	Prairie View	W	28–3
Sept. 21	at Texas Tech	L	7–33
Sept. 28	Wyoming	W	42–21
Oct. 5	at UL Lafayette	L	24–48
Oct. 12	ULM	L	14–21
Oct. 19	Georgia State	W	24–17
Oct. 26	South Alabama	W	33–31
Nov. 2	at Idaho	W	37–21
Nov. 16	at Arkansas State	L	21–38
Nov. 23	Western Kentucky	L	7–38
Nov. 29	at Troy	L	28–42

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Roosevelt Pearson, DE, Perris, CA*
2. Tryston Mizerak, OL, Garland, TX
3. James Sherman, K, Montgomery, AL
4. Toni Pulu, DE, Provo, UT*
5. P.J. Anderson, WR, San Antonio, TX
6. Dondre Elvoid, DT, Pittsburgh, PA*
7. Cedric Gambrell, DE, Cleveland, TX
8. Mershad Dillon, DT, Santa Maria, CA*
9. Will Copa, OL, Austin, TX
10. Stedman Mayberry, RB, Cedar Park, TX

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Sun Belt	National
Scoring	23.9 ppg	6	93
Rushing	171.5 ypg	5	64
Passing	154.8 ypg	7	113
Total	326.3 ypg	7	111
Defense	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**	**National**
Scoring	27.3 ppg	5	70
Rushing	147.4 ypg	1	39
Passing	249.3 ypg	6	89
Total	396.7 ypg	4	58
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**	**National**
+2	+0.2	3	47

OFFENSE Now that Texas State has found its quarterback in sophomore Tyler Jones, coach Dennis Franchione has elected to install more of an up-tempo, spread offense in the hopes that it will make the group more prolific this season after ranking 111th nationally in total offense in 2013. The Bobcats are loaded at tailback with junior Robert Lowe (945 yards, nine touchdowns in 2013) leading the backfield. Lowe finished 55 yards short of being the first Texas State tailback to finish with 1,000 yards since 2008.

There are a few questions at wide receiver. The Bobcats bring back Ben Ijah (16 receptions for 207 yards). Ijah will need to step up after the team lost Isaiah Battle and Andy Erickson to graduation. The senior wideout offered a glimpse of his playmaking ability in a 33–31 win over South Alabama last October when he caught a 51-yard pass on 4th-and-24. C.J. Best made the move from running back to slot receiver in the spring.

If the Bobcats want to take a step forward in the Sun Belt, they need their offensive line, which struggled with inexperience last season, to be more consistent. Former Arkansas State offensive line coach Brad Bedell was hired in the offseason.

DEFENSE After coordinator Craig Naivar left Texas State for a job at Kentucky in March, Franchione had to scramble to fill the opening quickly. The Bobcats chose someone with experience in the Sun Belt in John Thompson, who coached at Arkansas State last season. Thompson brings a read-and-react scheme, which places the onus on his players to make adjustments at the line of scrimmage.

Texas State has plenty of experienced players to build Thompson's system around, especially at linebacker. This group is led by senior David Mayo, who was the MVP of the defense last season with 89 tackles despite missing two games.

Questions remain in the secondary and on the defensive line. The one player Thompson can count on in the defensive backfield is senior cornerback — and four-year-starter — Craig Mager. After Mager, it turns into a guessing game with Xavier Daniels, Aaron Matthews and Justin Iwuji all gone from the 2013 roster.

The defensive line hasn't taken shape yet, either. Franchione made the line his focal point during recruiting, mostly because the Bobcats lost all four starters to graduation. Texas State inked eight defensive linemen, including six from the junior college ranks. The Bobcats need at least one of the transfers, possibly Mershad Dillon or Dondre Elvoid (or both), to offer some size inside.

SPECIALISTS After Will Johnson struggled early in the season (0-of-5 on field goal attempts), Jason Dann took over the placekicking duties. Johnson moved to punter, and the Bobcats never looked back. Dann went 9-of-10 on field goals, including a 41-yard game-winner against South Alabama with four seconds remaining. Mager and receiver Brandon Smith are on hand to handle return duties.

FINAL ANALYSIS This season will mark the first time in the past four years that the Bobcats will have spent back-to-back campaigns in the same conference after moving from the Southland to the WAC to the Sun Belt. Franchione has already said that this is the most FBS-ready roster he's had at Texas State. The team will again have a backloaded schedule with plenty of tough games in the latter half of the season. The good news is that the Bobcats will play both UL Lafayette and Arkansas State — the Sun Belt co-champions in 2013 — at home.

After Texas State went 6–6 in 2013, a winning season and bowl game would be the next logical step for this program. For that to happen, though, the defense — with a rebuilt line and secondary — will have to overachieve while learning a new system.

STAT CORNER

5.4

Offensive yards per pass attempt (including sacks) by Texas State in 2013. The Bobcats couldn't distract defenses from focusing on the run.

ROBERT LOWE

AP Photo/Rogelio V. Solis

THE QUOTE

"I didn't think their players looked like we expected them to look. They still have some recruiting to do."

— An opposing Sun Belt assistant coach

OFFENSE (8)

WR	1	**Ben Ijah (Sr.)**	81	Demun Mercer (Fr.)
WR	9	C.J. Best (Jr.)	80	Jafus Gaines (Jr.)
WR	5	**Brandon Smith (Jr.)**	88	Brice Gunter (Fr.)
OT	64	**Adrian Bellard (Jr.)**	62	Brandon Sarabia (Jr.)
OG	72	**Charlie Will Tuttle (Sr.)**	70	Jackson Hoskins (Fr.)
C	56	**Matt Freeman (Jr.)**	50	Collin Fissell (Sr.)
SG	77	**Felix Romero (So.)**	65	Josh Sell (Sr.)
ST	76	Ryan Melton (So.)	73	Hayden Lambert (So.)
TE	14	Bradley Miller (Sr.)	33	Gabe Schrade (Fr.)
QB	2	**Tyler Jones (So.)**	12	Connor White (Fr.)
RB	28	**Robert Lowe (Jr.)**	30	Chris Nutall (Jr.)

DEFENSE (4)

DE	55	Michael Odiari (Sr.)	90	Marcus Dallas Jr. (Sr.)
NT		Mershad Dillon (Jr.)	93	Will Trevillion (So.)
DT		Dondre Elvoid (So.)	94	Darius Hood (So.)
DE	99	Thomas Evans (Sr.)	82	Kris Petersen (Sr.)
SLB	3	**David Mayo (Sr.)**	35	Darnell Dailey (Jr.)
MLB	1	**Michael Orakpo (Sr.)**	4	Jerrid Jeter-Gilmon (Jr.)
CB	25	**Craig Mager (Sr.)**	29	Brandon McDowell (Fr.)
CB	22	David Mims II (Jr.)	33	David Farris (Sr.)
FS	27	**Colby Targun (Sr.)**	11	Brandon Jones (Sr.)
SS	17	Damani Alexcee (So.)	40	Stephen Smith (So.)
ROV	2	Demetrius Woodard (Jr.)	12	Germod Williams (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	48	Jason Dann (Sr.)	KR	5	Brandon Smith (Jr.)
P	38	Will Johnson (Sr.)	PR	25	Craig Mager (Sr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Tyler Jones, 160-100-1,130-5, 8 TDs
Rushing: Robert Lowe, 164 att., 945 yds., 9 TDs
Receiving: Bradley Miller, 24 rec., 311 yds., 0 TDs
Tackles: David Mayo, 89
Sacks: Michael Orakpo, 4.5
Interceptions: David Mayo, 4

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

TROY TROJANS

NATIONAL FORECAST **108**
SUN BELT PREDICTION **4**

Head Coach: Larry Blakeney
Record at School: 175-104-1 (23 years)
Career Record: 175-104-1 (23 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Kenny Edenfield
Defensive Coordinator: Wayne Bolt
Troy, AL
Veterans Memorial Stadium (30,000)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 6-6, 5-3 (SUN BELT)

August	
30	at UAB
September	
6	Duke
13	Abilene Christian
20	at Georgia
27	at ULM
October	
11	New Mexico State
18	Appalachian State
24	at South Alabama
30	at Georgia Southern
November	
8	Georgia State
15	at Idaho
29	UL Lafayette

2013 RESULTS (6-6, 4-3)

Aug. 31	UAB	(ot) W	34–31
Sept. 7	Savannah State	W	66–3
Sept. 12	at Arkansas State	L	34–41
Sept. 21	at Mississippi State	L	7–62
Sept. 28	at Duke	L	31–38
Oct. 5	South Alabama	W	34–33
Oct. 12	at Georgia State	W	35–28
Oct. 26	at Western Kentucky	W	32–26
Oct. 31	ULM	L	37–49
Nov. 7	at UL Lafayette	L	36–41
Nov. 16	at Ole Miss	L	21–51
Nov. 29	Texas State	W	42–28

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Jarvis Bentley, WR, Columbus, GA*
2. Andre Flakes, WR, Milton, FL
3. Dontreal Pruitt, QB, Laurel, MS*
4. Connor Bravard, QB, W. Des Moines, IA*
5. Emmanuel Thompson, ATH, Clayton, AL
6. John Johnson, WR, Troy, AL
7. Teddy Ruben, WR, Scottsdale, AZ*
8. Nyck Young, WR, Homewood, AL*
9. Jarvis Williams, DL, Greer, SC*
10. John Knight, DB, Thomasville, AL*

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Sun Belt	National
Scoring	34.1 ppg	1	31
Rushing	141.0 ypg	6	90
Passing	322.3 ypg	1	13
Total	463.3 ypg	1	27
Defense	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**	**National**
Scoring	35.9 ppg	7	107
Rushing	169.6 ypg	5	72
Passing	313.6 ypg	7	121
Total	483.2 ypg	7	112
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**	**National**
-8	-0.7	6	107

OFFENSE The Trojans are solid and experienced on offense — except at the trigger, where that vital role falls to one of several unknown quantities. Corey Robinson, one of four players in NCAA history with four 3,000-yard passing seasons, could be replaced by returning third-teamer Dallas Tidwell (19 pass attempts in two seasons) or redshirt freshman Brandon Silvers. Troy also signed junior college transfers Dontreal Pruitt and Connor Bravard in January. The position remains up for grabs heading into preseason camp.

Whoever winds up at quarterback will be surrounded by skilled veterans from the Sun Belt's top scoring team in 2013. Junior Brandon Burks ran for 675 yards and sophomore Jordan Chunn for 514 last year, with Chunn finding the end zone 14 times to lead the nation's freshman running backs.

Even though Sun Belt career touchdown catch leader Eric Thomas is gone, the wide receiver group boasts big numbers. Junior Bryan Holmes tied for third nationally with five catches of more than 50 yards to go with seven scores. Senior B.J. Chitty split time with Holmes in the spring and has 59 career grabs.

Speedy senior Chandler Worthy moves from an inside slot to the outside after catching two touchdown passes last year, and K.D. Edenfield, son of offensive coordinator Kenny Edenfield, takes over at one inside slot.

The Trojans' deepest position offensively is up front, even though the three returning starters were sidelined with injuries for spring drills. All-Sun Belt right tackle Terrence Jones anchors the group. Dalton Bennett played right guard and left tackle last year but is in a battle with Caleb Carbine at center. Troy, which gets a boost from Ole Miss transfer Ethan Hutson at guard, allowed only 19 sacks on 483 pass attempts last season.

STAT CORNER

16.4

Yards per completion allowed by the Troy defense, tied for worst in the country with UTEP. The Trojans were third-worst nationally in yards per attempt, allowing 9.5.

DEFENSE As potent as Troy's offense was, its defense was just as porous last season. The Trojans were last in the league in total defense (483.2 ypg) and scoring defense (35.9 ppg), and now they have to replace three of their starting front four. Only junior end Tyler Roberts, who led the down linemen in tackles and had 5.5 sacks, returns. In search of immediate help, the staff signed four junior college defensive linemen in February.

The outlook is better behind that group, with senior starters Mark Wilson and Wayland Coleman-Dancer back at the two linebacker slots. Wilson has 16 starts in two seasons and 102 career tackles.

Troy's secondary had only six interceptions as a group last season while allowing 313.6 pass yards per game, and that unit needs improvement from cornerbacks Ethan Davis, Chris Davis and Keion Payne after they combined to start 24 games last year. Veteran Jeremy Spikner returns at nickel back, but the safeties will be untested.

SPECIALISTS Graduated Will Scott handled punting and kicking last year. Those tasks now fall to sophomore punter Ryan Kay and junior placekicker Jed Solomon. Holmes, who averaged 20.6 yards after taking over as punt returner in the final four games, is a threat at both return positions.

FINAL ANALYSIS Troy's offense kept things close last season — the Trojans lost 41–36 and 41–34 to Sun Belt co-champions UL Lafayette and Arkansas State, respectively — but the defense couldn't get key stops in a 6–6 season. Troy's three straight non-winning seasons are a first in revered coach Larry Blakeney's 24-year career, and the weight of snapping that streak falls on the shoulders of untested quarterbacks. The Trojans loaded up on junior college talent to shore up the defense, but that group's ability to mesh and finding a leader for a potentially dangerous offense remain huge questions.

BRANDON BURKS

THE QUOTE

"Not the threat they used to be. They have not had the same players on the defensive line the last three or four years."

— An opposing Sun Belt assistant coach

OFFENSE (6)

WR	16	Chandler Worthy (Sr.)	3	Jarvis Bentley (Jr.)
WR	17	Michael Lindsey (So.)	19	Jalen Harris (Fr.)
WR	**13**	**K.D. Edenfield (Jr.)**	87	Clark Quisenberry (So.)
WR	**18**	**Bryan Holmes (Jr.)**	10	B.J. Chitty (Sr.)
LT	53	Antonio Garcia (So.)	78	Chris Hawkins (Sr.)
LG	50	Ethan Hutson (Jr.)	74	David Gross (So.)
C	60	Caleb Carbine (Sr.)	**69**	**Dalton Bennett (Jr.)**
RG	**70**	**Tommy Stephens (Sr.)**	71	Luke Lawrence (So.)
RT	**75**	**Terrence Jones (Sr.)**	72	Tyler Lassiter (So.)
QB	12	Brandon Silvers (Fr.)	1	Dontreal Pruitt (Jr.)
RB	**32**	**Brandon Burks (Jr.)**	36	Jordan Chunn (So.)

DEFENSE (5)

DE	30	Jamal Stadom (Fr.)	51	Deon Lee (Jr.)
DT	52	Billy Dobbs (Sr.)	97	D.J. Johnson (Jr.)
DT	98	Lonnie Gosha (Jr.)	61	Garrett Peek (So.)
DE	**44**	**Tyler Roberts (Jr.)**	90	Brandon Timmons (Sr.)
LB	**23**	**Wayland Coleman-Dancer (Sr.)**	20	Terris Lewis (So.)
MLB	**35**	**Mark Wilson (Sr.)**	26	Mitchell Roland (So.)
NB	**11**	**Jeremy Spikner (Sr.)**	10	Dondrell Harris (So.)
CB	37	Jacquez Young (Sr.)	25	Chris Davis (Jr.)
CB	**34**	**Ethan Davis (Sr.)**	2	Keion Payne (Sr.)
FS	43	Montres Kitchens (Jr.)	22	Joe Lofton (Jr.)
SS	29	JaQuadrian Lewis (So.)	32	Josh Shelton (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	38	Jed Solomon (Jr.)	KR	18	Bryan Holmes (Jr.)
P	99	Ryan Kay (So.)	PR	18	Bryan Holmes (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Dallas Tidwell, 16-12-137-0, 2 TDs
Rushing: Brandon Burks, 134 att., 675 yds., 2 TDs
Receiving: Bryan Holmes, 40 rec., 676 yds., 7 TDs
Tackles: Mark Wilson, 58
Sacks: Tyler Roberts, 5.5
Interceptions: 3 players tied with 1

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Troy SID

UL LAFAYETTE RAGIN' CAJUNS

NATIONAL FORECAST **60**
SUN BELT PREDICTION **1**

Head Coach: Mark Hudspeth
Record at School: 27-12 (3 years)
Career Record: 93-33 (10 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Jay Johnson
Defensive Coordinator: James Willis
Lafayette, LA
Cajun Field (31,000)

2014 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 10-2, 8-0 (SUN BELT)

August	
30	Southern
September	
6	Louisiana Tech
13	at Ole Miss
20	at Boise State
October	
4	Georgia State
14	at Texas State
21	Arkansas State
November	
1	South Alabama
8	at New Mexico State
15	at ULM
22	Appalachian State
29	at Troy

2013 RESULTS (9-4, 5-2)

Aug. 31	at Arkansas	L	14–34
Sept. 7	at Kansas State	L	27–48
Sept. 14	Nicholls	W	70–7
Sept. 21	at Akron	W	35–30
Oct. 5	Texas State	W	48–24
Oct. 15	at Western Kentucky	W	37–20
Oct. 22	at Arkansas State	W	23–7
Nov. 2	New Mexico State	W	49–35
Nov. 7	Troy	W	41–36
Nov. 16	at Georgia State	W	35–21
Nov. 30	ULM	L	28–31
Dec. 7	at South Alabama	L	8–30
Dec. 21	vs. Tulane #	W	24–21

#New Orleans Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Anthony Jones, TE, New Orleans, LA
2. T.J. Posey, LB, Gadsden, AL
3. Ken Edwards, DL, Philadelphia, MS
4. Jesse Freeman, OL, Leesburg, GA
5. Dylan Bossier, WR, Lafayette, LA*
6. LaDarrius Kidd, DL, Gulfport, MS
7. Darzil Washington, LB, Edgard, LA*
8. Malik Williams, DB, Jennings, LA
9. C.J. Bates, WR, Louisville, MS*
10. Gabe Fuselier, WR, St. Martinville, LA

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Sun Belt	National
Scoring	33.8 ppg	2	34
Rushing	204.5 ypg	2	26
Passing	212.2 ypg	5	80
Total	416.8 ypg	4	56
Defense	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**	**National**
Scoring	26.5 ppg	4	62
Rushing	150.7 ypg	2	47
Passing	242.8 ypg	5	80
Total	393.5 ypg	3	56
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**	**National**
+1	+0.1	4	56

UL-Lafayette SID

OFFENSE Terrance Broadway has thrown for 5,261 yards and 36 scores in two seasons. He's 15–6 as a starter with two bowl wins, and he led the Sun Belt Conference in passing efficiency last year. In other words, the quarterback spot is secure. UL Lafayette does, however, have to find a backup — last year the offense struggled mightily when Broadway was out for the final two games with a broken arm. Brooks Haack and Jalen Nixon will battle for the No. 2 spot, but running back and former prep quarterback Elijah McGuire could also take snaps this year.

McGuire and Alonzo Harris make up the Sun Belt's most dynamic one-two rushing punch, with Harris powering for 942 yards and 14 scores and McGuire speeding his way for 863 yards and eight TDs as a true freshman. Both are bigger and stronger one year later, a bad omen for defenses trying to stop what was the league's second-most potent rushing attack a season ago.

That attack is helped by a line that returns four starters from a group that started intact for all 13 games last year — the third year in a row for the Cajun front to accomplish that feat. Brothers Daniel and Mykhael Quave at right guard and left tackle, respectively, anchor that group, but the center spot is a question mark, with redshirt freshman Grant Horst penciled in as the starter.

Athletic Jamal Robinson emerged as a go-to receiver last year with 54 catches, 862 yards and eight scores and was high on coach Mark Hudspeth's most-improved list in the spring. The Cajuns will have to find a replacement for talented slot man Darryl Surgent as well as a new tight end.

STAT CORNER

4.9

Average points per trip inside the 40 scored by the Cajuns' offense, 12th best in the country. The offense was inconsistent but closed the deal as it approached the goal line.

DEFENSE The Cajuns struggled against throwing teams last year despite leading the Sun Belt in interceptions. They need more pressure from senior tackles Justin Hamilton and Christian Ringo. Hamilton led the down linemen in tackles (38) and sacks (four) last year and should stay fresher with added depth. Hometown product Jacoby Briscoe transfers back from Miami and could be a playmaker at end.

The Cajun staff went into spring drills looking for linebacker help with two-year tackle leader Justin Anderson gone, and came out with two spots locked down. Junior Dominique Tovell, the Cajuns' second-leading tackler last year, started every game, and junior Chris Hill, a spot starter in '13, had what Hudspeth called the best spring of any defensive player.

Senior safety Sean Thomas had 63 tackles and a team-high three interceptions. Senior Corey Trim is the only veteran at corner.

SPECIALISTS Stephen Brauchle returns but missed three of his last four field goals, and kickoff specialist Hunter Stover had the only field goal in the bowl win. Stover leads that battle entering the fall, while Australian punter Daniel Cadona returns after averaging 41.7 yards in his first season of football. McGuire is the likely candidate for kick returns as the Cajun staff looks to get the ball into his hands more often.

FINAL ANALYSIS With a healthy Broadway at the helm, UL Lafayette won eight straight games and earned a share of the Sun Belt title for the first time since 2005. With him out of the lineup, the Cajuns lost two in a row before Broadway returned — not at a 100 percent — to lead them to a win in the bowl game. His value can't be overstated as the triggerman of what could be the Sun Belt's most potent offense.

There are some issues on defense, especially against the pass, but this is still the most talented team in the Sun Belt. As long as Broadway remains healthy, the Cajuns are the overwhelming favorite to win the league.

TERRANCE BROADWAY

THE QUOTE

"(Quarterback) Terrance Broadway could be a little more consistent in the throw game, but he is an effective runner."

— An opposing Sun Belt assistant coach

OFFENSE (8)

WR	4	**Jamal Robinson (Sr.)**	21	C.J. Bates (So.)
WR	2	Al Riles (Jr.)	87	Jarrell Rogers (Fr.)
WR	11	**James Butler (Sr.)**	18	Devin Scott (So.)
LT	70	**Mykhael Quave (Jr.)**	60	Daquin Withrow (Fr.)
LG	72	**Terry Johnson (Sr.)**	55	Karmichael Dunbar (So.)
C	61	Grant Horst (Fr.)		Eddie Gordon (Jr.)
RG	67	**Daniel Quave (Sr.)**	78	Allen Cummins (So.)
RT	68	**Octravian Anderson (Jr.)**	69	Greg Siener (Jr.)
TE	10	Larry Pettis (Sr.)	81	Nick Byrne (So.)
QB	8	**Terrance Broadway (Sr.)**	9	Brooks Haack (So.)
RB	46	**Alonzo Harris (Sr.)**	15	Elijah McGuire (So.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	93	Marquise White (Jr.)	91	Jacoby Briscoe (So.)
DT	92	**Christian Ringo (Sr.)**	53	Marvin Martin (Sr.)
DT	74	**Justin Hamilton (Sr.)**	95	Rodrick Stephens (Fr.)
SLB	52	**Dominique Tovell (Jr.)**	29	Tyren Alexander (Jr.)
MLB	51	Trey Granier (So.)	38	Trae Johnson (Sr.)
WLB	13	Chris Hill (Jr.)	35	Boris Anyama (Sr.)
OLB	59	Jake Molbert (Sr.)	57	Chris Prater (Jr.)
CB	20	Dominick Jones (So.)	6	Antoinne Adkins (Jr.)
CB	7	**Corey Trim (Sr.)**	11	Jevante Watson (Jr.)
SS	4	**Trevence Patt (Sr.)**	27	**T.J. Worthy (Jr.)**
FS	24	**Sean Thomas (Sr.)**	23	Tracy Walker (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	45	Hunter Stover (Sr.)	KR	15	Elijah McGuire (So.)
P	48	Daniel Cadona (Sr.)	PR	21	C.J. Bates (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Terrance Broadway, 266-166-2,419-12, 19 TDs
Rushing: Alonzo Harris, 199 att., 942 yds., 14 TDs
Receiving: Jamal Robinson, 54 rec., 862 yds., 8 TDs
Tackles: Dominique Tovell, 67
Sacks: Justin Hamilton, 4
Interceptions: Sean Thomas, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

ULM WARHAWKS

NATIONAL FORECAST **110**
SUN BELT PREDICTION **5**

Head Coach: Todd Berry
Record at School: 23-26 (4 years)
Career Record: 52-85 (12 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Steve Farmer
Defensive Coordinator: Troy Reffett
Monroe, LA
Malone Stadium (30,427)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 5-7, 5-3 (SUN BELT)

August	
28	Wake Forest
September	
6	Idaho
13	at LSU
27	Troy
October	
4	at Arkansas State
11	at Kentucky
25	Texas State
November	
1	at Texas A&M
8	at Appalachian State
15	UL Lafayette
22	at New Mexico State
29	at Georgia Southern

2013 RESULTS (6-6, 4-3)

Aug. 31	at Oklahoma	L	0-34
Sept. 7	Grambling	W	48-10
Sept. 14	at Wake Forest	W	21-19
Sept. 21	at Baylor	L	7-70
Sept. 28	Tulane	L	14-31
Oct. 3	Western Kentucky	L	10-31
Oct. 12	at Texas State	W	21-14
Oct. 26	Georgia State	W	38-10
Oct. 31	at Troy	W	49-37
Nov. 9	Arkansas State	L	14-42
Nov. 23	at South Alabama	L	14-36
Nov. 30	at UL Lafayette	W	31-28

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Anthony Monken, QB, Libertyville, IL
2. Garrett Smith, QB, Spring Branch, TX
3. David Griffith, LB, Plano, TX
4. Doug Lofton, OL, Bay Springs, MS
5. Cody McGuire, LB, Monroe, LA
6. Marcus Hubbard, DB, Rowlett, TX
7. Junior Williams, DB, Olathe, KS*
8. Brennen Bradley, WR, Pass Christian, MS
9. Tyrone Carter, WR, Rayville, LA*
10. Marcus Green, WR, Pontotoc, MS

*junior college transfer

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Sun Belt	National
Scoring	22.3 ppg	7	100
Rushing	122.8 ypg	7	105
Passing	237.5 ypg	4	58
Total	360.3 ypg	6	98
Defense	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**	**National**
Scoring	30.2 ppg	6	83
Rushing	189.3 ypg	7	87
Passing	237.6 ypg	4	74
Total	426.8 ypg	6	90
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**Sun Belt**	**National**
-4	-0.3	5	86

OFFENSE The Kolton Browning era is over at ULM. The four-year starting quarterback racked up nearly 12,000 yards of total offense and 99 total TDs before graduating last season. His vacant role is open to four contenders, likely led by NC State transfer Pete Thomas. Brayle Brown — the only returning QB who took a snap at ULM last year — Earnest Carrington and Brian Williams could also get their shot, but Thomas is the favorite to win the job in preseason camp.

A California native, Thomas started for two years at Colorado State (2010-11) and one season at NC State ('13). He struggled in his one season with the Wolfpack (throwing four touchdowns and nine interceptions for a team that went winlesss in the ACC) and then transferred when it was apparent that Jacoby Brissett was going to win the job going forward.

Speedster Tyler Cain is back from a 2013 injury to join returning bruiser Centarius Donald (433 yards, four TDs) for a one-two punch in the backfield, and a physical, veteran line of four seniors and one junior should turn the offense to a more run-heavy style. Leading wideout Rashon Ceaser (65 receptions, 964 yards) paces a solid receiving corps, but talented tight ends Alec Osborne and Harley Scioneaux may provide the most security for the new quarterback.

STAT CORNER

-0.66

Change in ULM's offensive yards per play from 2012 to '13, as a result of too many injuries and too many third-and-longs for the Warhawks.

DEFENSE The group has come of age, with nine starters returning. Five of the top six defensive linemen are juniors or seniors, all three starting linebackers are upperclassmen and four starting defensive backs return. "We have been young on defense the last couple of years, but this year we are older and more confident," Berry says. "This is the first year that we have had enough depth that our 3s (third-string players) are competitive."

Despite the optimism and apparent depth, ULM must replace top tackler and defensive leader Cameron Blakes at linebacker, and the Warhawks need a more potent pass rush after last season's team recorded only 16 sacks.

ULM is at least more athletic than past years. Nose tackle Gerrand Johnson and linebackers Ray Stovall and Hunter Kissinger should make the Warhawks strong against the run, but there are questions of consistency against the pass. Junior Mitch Lane, playing the pivotal Hawk position in ULM's 3-3-5 scheme, needs a big year to bolster the secondary.

SPECIALISTS Justin Manton had the nation's fourth-longest punting average (45.8) last season, but his placekicking has been a mere 50-50 proposition. The senior has made only 16-of-32 field goals in his career, and he has had a combined nine kicks/punts blocked over three seasons. Ceaser is a dangerous punt returner.

FINAL ANALYSIS As usual, ULM has a challenging non-conference schedule with games against Wake Forest, LSU, Kentucky and Texas A&M. That makes it even tougher to get one of the Sun Belt Conference's limited bowl slots, as its 6–6 record last season did not land a bid.

"We have got to schedule like that every year from a financial standpoint, so our players are all acclimated to those type of challenges," Berry says. "It can have an impact with the bowl tie-ins in our conference because of your overall record."

ULM will have more experience than the majority of its opponents, but a lot rests on the performance of the starting quarterback, especially since Browning provided the team's identity for so long. Berry's teams have often overachieved, but with four new Sun Belt members it's difficult to figure where the Warhawks should rank in the new lineup.

RASHON CEASER

THE QUOTE

"The heartbeat of that team is gone — (quarterback) Kolton Browning, That kid was special. To me he was Johnny Manziel No. 2."

— An opposing Sun Belt assistant coach

OFFENSE (5)

WR	2	**Rashon Ceaser (Jr.)**	15	Vincent Hobbs (So.)
WR	21	Ajalen Holley (So.)	84	De'Vonte Haggerty (Fr.)
WR	23	Kenzee Jackson (Sr.)	16	Tyrone Carter (Jr.)
LT	67	Jeremy Burton (Sr.)	71	Chase Regian (Fr.)
LG	77	**Ben Risenhoover (Sr.)**	55	Jimmy Chung (So.)
C	68	Colby Mitchell (Jr.)	74	Matt Oubre (Fr.)
RG	75	**Demiere Burkett (Sr.)**	73	Trey Martin (So.)
RT	65	**Joseph Treadwell (Sr.)**	70	Frank Sutton (Fr.)
TE	89	Alec Osborne (So.)	88	**Harley Scioneaux (Jr.)**
QB		Pete Thomas (Sr.)	12	Brayle Brown (Jr.)
RB	5	Centarius Donald (Sr.)	3	Tyler Cain (Jr.)

DEFENSE (9)

DE	51	Jacob Tyson (Fr.)	95	**Darius Lively (Sr.)**
NT	76	**Gerrand Johnson (Jr.)**	98	Malcolm Edmond (Sr.)
DE	99	**Joey Gautney (Sr.)**	45	Lorenzo Jackson (Jr.)
LB	90	**Ray Stovall (Sr.)**	33	Tevyn Cagins (So.)
LB	48	**Hunter Kissinger (Jr.)**	57	Braxton Moore (So.)
LB	36	Cody Robinson (Jr.)	34	Michael Johnson (Jr.)
CB	31	Lenzy Pipkins (So.)	29	Ferrando Joseph (Fr.)
CB	24	**Trey Caldwell (Jr.)**	4	**Rob'Donovan Lewis (Sr.)**
S	10	**Cordero Smith (Sr.)**	8	Junior Williams (Jr.)
H	7	**Mitch Lane (Jr.)**	43	Bryce Ray (Sr.)
S	4	Tré Hunter (So.)	20	Justin Backus (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	17	Justin Manton (Sr.)	KR	3	Tyler Cain (Jr.)
P	17	Justin Manton (Sr.)	PR	2	Rashon Ceaser (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Brayle Brown, 117-61-645-6, 1 TD
Rushing: Centarius Donald, 87 att., 433 yds., 4 TDs
Receiving: Rashon Ceaser, 65 rec., 964 yds., 5 TDs
Tackles: Hunter Kissinger, 73
Sacks: Joey Gautney, 3
Interceptions: Hunter Kissinger, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

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ARMY BLACK KNIGHTS

Head Coach: Jeff Monken
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: 38-16 (4 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Brent Davis
Defensive Coordinator: Jay Bateman
West Point, NY
Michie Stadium (38,000)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 4-8

September	
6	Buffalo
13	at Stanford
20	at Wake Forest
27	at Yale
October	
4	Ball State
11	Rice
18	at Kent State
November	
1	Air Force
8	vs. Connecticut #
15	at Western Kentucky
22	Fordham
December	
13	vs. Navy %

#Bronx, NY %Baltimore, MD

2013 RESULTS (3-9)

Aug. 30	Morgan State	W	28-12
Sept. 7	at Ball State	L	14-40
Sept. 14	Stanford	L	20-34
Sept. 21	Wake Forest	L	11-25
Sept. 28	vs. Louisiana Tech %	W	35-16
Oct. 5	at Boston College	L	27-48
Oct. 12	Eastern Michigan	W	50-25
Oct. 19	at Temple	L	14-33
Nov. 2	at Air Force	L	28-42
Nov. 9	Western Kentucky	L	17-21
Nov. 30	at Hawaii	L	42-49
Dec. 14	vs. Navy &	L	7-34

%Dallas &Philadelphia

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Bryce Holland, C, Chandler, AZ
2. Trey Ratliff, OL, Wake Forest, NC
3. Zach Maxwell, DE, Southington, CT
4. Zach Saum, TE, Indianapolis, IN
5. James Nachtigal, ATH, Fort Atkinson, WI
6. Chris Zook, DB, Houston, TX
7. Nick Shiver, RB, Mt. Pleasant, SC
8. Sam Walker, LB, Cumming, GA
9. Malik Crossdale, RB, Bronx, NY
10. E.J. Turner, ATH, Huntsville, AL

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	National
Scoring	24.4 ppg	92
Rushing	309.8 ypg	3
Passing	77.6 ypg	123
Total	387.3 ypg	79
Defense	**Per Game**	**National**
Scoring	31.6 ppg	91
Rushing	213.3 ypg	103
Passing	197.5 ypg	14
Total	410.8 ypg	71
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**National**
-1	-0.1	70

OFFENSE First-year coach Jeff Monken brings his version of the triple-option to West Point. There is a basic understanding of the scheme among returning players, but different terminology made for quite a learning curve during the spring.

Angel Santiago started 11 games last season and is the most experienced of the returning quarterbacks. A.J. Schurr, whose only career start was last year against Navy, is the better passer and frequently worked with the first team during the spring.

A groin injury cost two-time 1,000-yard rusher Raymond Maples most of last season, and an ankle surgery cost him the spring. Granted a fifth year of eligibility, the Academy's sixth all-time leading rusher is expected to rejoin a ground attack that churned out 309.8 yards rushing per game in 2013. Senior Terry Baggett, the leading returning rusher (1,113 yards), should be good to go after injuries slowed him during the spring.

Xavier Moss emerged last season and was easily Army's top receiver with 35 receptions. Chevaughn Lawrence and Kelvin White, who switched from QB in late spring, are in the mix. There are no experienced tight ends on the roster. An incoming freshman may ultimately be the answer when the formation requires one.

Ryan Powis, a three-year starter at center, was moved to tackle late in the spring to accommodate Matt Hugenberg. Monken felt Hugenberg, who has yet to start a game, was his best lineman in the spring and decided to put him at center. Guard Steve Shumaker and tackle Justin Gilbert are returning starters.

STAT CORNER

79.8

Percentage of Georgia Southern's yards that came on the ground in 2013. Jeff Monken brings a familiar style to Army.

DEFENSE Monken will stick with a 3-4 alignment for a defense that ranked 103rd against the run and tied for 107th in turnovers forced. Seven linemen with starting experience return, led by Mike Ugenyi and Robert Kough, who had a team-high eight tackles for a loss in 2013.

The linebacking corps lacks experience. Julian Holloway is the unit's leading returning tackler with only 42. James Kelly saw action in every game last season, including three starts. Senior Derek Sanchez had a strong spring.

The secondary took a hit late during spring when Shaquille Tolbert left the team. Tolbert had been moved to corner after starting at safety. Still, there are some proven playmakers in the defensive backfield. Senior safety Geoff Bacon made the move from linebacker prior to last season and recorded 63 tackles to place second on the team despite missing four games. The top returning corner is junior Chris Carnegie, who started 20 games his first two seasons.

SPECIALISTS Prior to taking over at Georgia Southern, Monken was the special teams coordinator at Navy. It is an area where the Black Knights are in desperate need of improvement after the unit placed 115th in punt returns and 121st in kick returns. Moss and Josh Jenkins could help in those areas. Kicker Daniel Grochowski drilled 8-of-11 field-goal attempts last season, while Alex Tardieu averaged a paltry 37.3 yards per punt.

FINAL ANALYSIS Monken knows the triple-option and previously coached at a major military academy, key ingredients when taking over at Army. He is very intense and demands a lot of his team. He showed his frustration during the spring when his team lost focus. "I am not happy with how physical we are playing in every phase of the game," he said at one point.

Monken inherits a team that won only three games last year and a total of eight in the past three years. But with a soft schedule that includes two FCS opponents, there is room for improvement. Bowl-eligibility isn't likely, but the Black Knights should be competitive with most of the teams on their schedule.

TERRY BAGGETT

THE QUOTE

"It will be interesting to see how (Jeff) Monken does there. Seems to have the background, but so did Rich Ellerson."

— An anonymous assistant coach

OFFENSE (8)

WR	**86**	**Xavier Moss (So.)**	82	Edgar Poe (So.)
WR	**21**	**Chevaughn Lawrence (Sr.)**	15	DeAndre Bell (Jr.)
LT	**52**	**Ryan Powis (Sr.)**	59	Corey Hobbs (Jr.)
LG	**70**	**Steve Shumaker (Sr.)**	71	O.J. Hall (So.)
C	53	Matt Hugenberg (Jr.)	51	Todd McDonald (Sr.)
RG	75	Stefan Moreau (So.)	56	Will Butler (Jr.)
RT	**60**	**Justin Gilbert (Jr.)**	72	Colby Enegren (So.)
QB	**3**	**Angel Santiago (Sr.)**	11	A.J. Schurr (Jr.)
RB	**31**	**Terry Baggett (Sr.)**	1	Raymond Maples (Sr.)
RB	10	Trenton Turrentine (Sr.)	19	Tony Giovannelli (Sr.)
FB	**26**	**Larry Dixon (Sr.)**	40	Matt Giachinta (Jr.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	**99**	**Robert Kough (Sr.)**	54	Joe Drummond (Sr.)
NG	**98**	**Richard Glover (Sr.)**	93	T.J. Atimalala (Jr.)
DE	**92**	**Mike Ugenyi (Sr.)**	50	Ryan Alexander (Jr.)
OLB	43	James Kelly (Sr.)	94	Derek Sanchez (Sr.)
ILB	42	Julian Holloway (Sr.)	13	Seth Combs (So.)
ILB	72	Sean McBryde (So.)	11	Andrew King (So.)
OLB	32	Stephen Ricciardi (Sr.)	47	Addison Holstein (Sr.)
CB	**3**	**Josh Jenkins (So.)**	16	Lamar Johnson-Harris (Sr.)
CB	**14**	**Chris Carnegie (Jr.)**	4	Marques Avery (Sr.)
S	**9**	**Hayden Pierce (Sr.)**	10	Gervon Simon (So.)
S	**6**	**Geoffery Bacon (Sr.)**	2	Steven Johnson (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	95	Dan Grochowski (Jr.)	**KR**	86	Xavier Moss (So.)
P	80	Alex Tardieu (Jr.)	**PR**	3	Josh Jenkins (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Angel Santiago, 93-46-597-2, 2 TDs
Rushing: Terry Baggett, 141 att., 1,113 yds., 8 TDs
Receiving: Xavier Moss, 35 rec., 468 yds., 1 TD
Tackles: Geoffery Bacon, 63
Sacks: Robert Kough, 3
Interceptions: Josh Jenkins, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

AP Photo/Mike Groll

BYU COUGARS

Head Coach: Bronco Mendenhall
Record at School: 82-34 (9 years)
Career Record: 82-34 (9 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Robert Anae
Defensive Coordinator: Nick Howell
Provo, UT
LaVell Edwards Stadium (63,470)

2014 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 9-3

August	
29	at Connecticut
September	
6	at Texas
11	Houston
20	Virginia
October	
3	Utah State
9	at UCF
18	Nevada
24	at Boise State
November	
1	at Middle Tennessee
15	UNLV
22	Savannah State
29	at California

2013 RESULTS (8-5)

Aug. 31	at Virginia	L	16–19
Sept. 7	Texas	W	40–21
Sept. 21	Utah	L	13–20
Sept. 27	Middle Tennessee	W	37–10
Oct. 4	at Utah State	W	31–14
Oct. 12	Georgia Tech	W	38–20
Oct. 19	at Houston	W	47–46
Oct. 25	Boise State	W	37–20
Nov. 9	at Wisconsin	L	17–27
Nov. 16	Idaho State	W	59–13
Nov. 23	at Notre Dame	L	13–23
Nov. 30	at Nevada	W	28–23
Dec. 27	vs. Washington #	L	16–31

#Fight Hunger Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Fred Warner, LB, San Marcos, CA
2. Nick Kurtz, WR, El Cajon, CA*
3. Devon Blackmon, WR, Fontana, CA*
4. Isaiah Nacua, DL, Las Vegas, NV
5. Matt Bushman, TE, Tucson, AZ
6. Sione Takitaki, DE, Fontana, CA
7. Zac Dow, DE, Pleasant Grove, UT
8. Tyler Cook, LB, Murrieta, CA
9. Uriah Leiataua, DE, Compton, CA
10. Tico Fuga, DT, Huntington Beach, CA

*junior college transfers

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	National
Scoring	30.2 ppg	55
Rushing	267.3 ypg	10
Passing	226.3 ypg	71
Total	493.6 ypg	14
Defense	**Per Game**	**National**
Scoring	22.1 ppg	22
Rushing	159.9 ypg	56
Passing	218.9 ypg	46
Total	378.8 ypg	47
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**National**
+2	+0.2	48

OFFENSE BYU offensive coordinator Robert Anae would love to replay the 2013 season, with his players being more accustomed to his fast-paced scheme. "I wish we would have had this as our starting point last season," he says.

As it is, the Cougars can only hope to improve on their 8–5 record, facing a less demanding schedule. Quarterback Taysom Hill knows he can get better. Hill is a remarkable athlete who rushed for 1,344 yards as a sophomore, including a 259-yard performance against Texas. He also showed signs of passing ability, but his accuracy rate dropped off considerably against quality opponents.

Running back Jamaal Williams almost matched Hill's per-game rushing average last season, finishing with 1,233 yards while missing one game due to injury. He's a shifty, explosive runner who helped the Cougars rank 10th in the country in rushing.

The Cougars must replace Cody Hoffman, the school's all-time leading receiver. Mitch Mathews, who caught three touchdown passes against Utah State, and senior Ross Apo are the top returnees. Junior college transfer Nick Kurtz improved during the spring.

Because of injuries and inconsistency, BYU used 11 different starters at the five offensive line positions in 2013. Ten of those players return, but former defensive lineman Tuni Kanuch has emerged as the starting right guard after missing last season due to injury.

STAT CORNER

4.7

Average gain for BYU opponents on first down, 10th-lowest in the country. The defense was strong despite inconsistent offense.

DEFENSE Defensive coordinator Nick Howell expects the linemen to be "more physical and more stout against the run" than in 2013, when BYU ranked 56th in rushing defense, allowing 159.9 yards per game. BYU will have a more traditional look up front, with Bronson Kaufusi having moved to outside linebacker.

No defensive player in BYU history made as many impact plays as Kyle Van Noy. BYU's coaches believe they've found a creative solution to replacing Van Noy by moving Kaufusi from the defensive line. As a linebacker, Kaufusi "just looks so much more natural," Howell says. "He's leaner and faster, and he'll shock some people."

On the other side, Alani Fua is a versatile athlete who was used as a nickel back at times, when BYU's secondary was depleted, while also excelling as a linebacker.

BYU scrambled to fill the cornerback positions last year after Trent Trammell was injured on the first day of spring drills and Jordan Johnson also was lost for the season with a knee injury in August. In their absence, Robertson Daniel became a highly valuable player on one side, but BYU struggled to find a consistent player at the other corner.

SPECIALISTS Scott Arellano proved to be a fairly consistent punter as a junior college transfer, averaging 41 yards with 13 of his punts covering 50-plus yards. BYU will have to shore up the protection after having three punts blocked. The Cougars needs a new kicker, with sophomore Moose Bingham having moved ahead of Trevor Samson in the spring competition.

FINAL ANALYSIS A tough schedule and a bowl defeat kept BYU stuck on eight victories in 2013, but coach Bronco Mendenhall likes the trajectory of the program. "We win every year, and it's just a matter of how much," Mendenhall says. "I think this group wants to do even more than we've done before."

Even after a Fight Hunger Bowl loss ended BYU's streak of five bowl victories, the Cougars have "tons of momentum," Mendenhall says. "I like our program a lot right now, and I like our players."

In BYU's fourth season of independence, the Cougars are positioned to make some national impact especially if the defensive front seven comes together and Hill becomes a more consistent passer.

TAYSOM HILL

Brian Ebner

THE QUOTE

"They use Taysom Hill to his ability — really, really talented, fast and stronger than you think."

— An opposing assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	10	Mitch Mathews (Jr.)	1	Ross Apo (Sr.)
WR	13	Kurt Henderson (Jr.)	9	Nick Kurtz (Jr.)
WR	11	Terenn Houk (Jr.)	19	Brett Thompson (Sr.)
LT	**57**	**De'Ondre Wesley (Sr.)**	71	Ului Lapuaho (Fr.)
LG	**73**	**Solomone Kafu (Sr.)**	**70**	**Terrance Alletto (Jr.)**
C	50	Edward Fusi (Sr.)	54	Parker Dawe (So.)
RG	78	Tuni Kanuch (Fr.)	74	Brock Stringham (Sr.)
RT	**77**	**Michael Yeck (Sr.)**	**67**	**Kyle Johnson (So.)**
TE	84	Devin Mahina (Sr.)	85	Bryan Sampson (So.)
QB	**4**	**Taysom Hill (Jr.)**	7	Christian Stewart (Sr.)
RB	**21**	**Jamaal Williams (Jr.)**	28	Adam Hine (Jr.)

DEFENSE (6)

DE	92	Graham Rowley (Jr.)	64	Kesni Tausinga (Fr.)
NT	99	Marques Johnson (Sr.)	91	Travis Tuiloma (So.)
DE	**44**	**Remington Peck (Jr.)**	91	Travis Tuiloma (So.)
SLB	**5**	**Alani Fua (Sr.)**	42	Michael Alisa (Sr.)
MLB	47	Zac Stout (Sr.)	41	Austin Heder (So.)
BLB	22	Manoa Pikula (Jr.)	43	Jherremya Leuta-Douyere (Jr.)
WLB	**90**	**Bronson Kaufusi (Jr.)**	31	Sae Tautu (So.)
CB	6	Jordan Johnson (Sr.)	3	Trent Trammell (Jr.)
CB	**4**	**Robertson Daniel (Sr.)**	19	Trevor Bateman (Jr.)
S	**20**	**Craig Bills (Sr.)**		Harvey Jackson (Sr.)
S	**7**	**Skye PoVey (Sr.)**	2	Dallin Leavitt (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	38	Moose Bingham (So.)	KR	28	Adam Hine (Jr.)
P	23	Scott Arellano (Sr.)	PR	23	Garrett Juergens (So.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Taysom Hill, 438-236-2,938-14, 19 TDs
Rushing: Taysom Hill, 246 att., 1,344 yds., 10 TDs
Receiving: Mitch Mathews, 23 rec., 397 yds., 4 TDs
Tackles: Craig Bills, 79
Sacks: Bronson Kaufusi, 4.0
Interceptions: 3 players tied with 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

NAVY MIDSHIPMEN

Head Coach: Ken Niumatalolo
Record at School: 49-30 (6 years)
Career Record: 49-30 (6 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Ivin Jasper
Defensive Coordinator: Buddy Green
Annapolis, MD
Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium (34,000)

2014 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 9-3

August	
30	vs. Ohio State #
September	
6	at Temple
13	at Texas State
20	Rutgers
27	Western Kentucky
October	
4	at Air Force
11	VMI
25	San Jose State
November	
1	vs. Notre Dame %
15	Georgia Southern
28	at South Alabama
December	
13	vs. Army #

#Baltimore, MD %Landover, MD

2013 RESULTS (9-4)

Sept. 7	at Indiana	W	41–35
Sept. 14	Delaware	W	51–7
Sept. 28	at Western Kentucky	L	7–19
Oct. 5	Air Force	W	28–10
Oct. 12	at Duke	L	7–35
Oct. 19	at Toledo (ot)	L	44–45
Oct. 26	Pittsburgh	W	24–21
Nov. 2	at Notre Dame	L	34–38
Nov. 9	Hawaii	W	42–28
Nov. 16	South Alabama	W	42–14
Nov. 22	at San Jose State (ot)	W	58–52
Dec. 14	vs. Army %	W	34–7
Dec. 30	vs. Middle Tennessee #	W	24–6

%Philadelphia #Armed Forces Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Josh Brown, RB, Snellville, GA
2. Trenton Noller, OL, Windsor, CO
3. Parker Wade, C, Nashville, TN
4. Micah Thomas, LB, Cedar Park, TX
5. Tre Walker, RB, Texarkana, TX
6. Brandon Colon, WR, Los Fresnos, TX
7. Jahmaal Daniel, RB, Fayetteville, NC
8. Brandon Jones, LB, Keller, TX
9. Justin Norton, DB, Rowlett, TX
10. Kevin McCoy, LB, Fayetteville, NC

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	National
Scoring	33.5 ppg	35
Rushing	325.4 ypg	2
Passing	85.9 ypg	122
Total	411.3 ypg	61
Defense	**Per Game**	**National**
Scoring	24.4 ppg	40
Rushing	178.8 ypg	79
Passing	215.9 ypg	37
Total	394.8 ypg	57
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**National**
+12	+0.9	12

OFFENSE Keenan Reynolds was nothing short of sensational as a sophomore, setting numerous school records and several NCAA marks as well. In less than two full seasons on the job, the Tennessee native — who is 15–6 as a starter — is already being mentioned in the same breath as Navy greats Roger Staubach and Chris McCoy.

After averaging 33.5 points and 411.3 total yards in 2013, Navy's patented triple-option offense figures to fire on all cylinders again this season as Reynolds will operate behind an experienced offensive line and has plenty of proven weapons at the skill positions.

Right guard Jake Zuzek, who has started 26 straight games, anchors an offensive line that played with great cohesion and chemistry toward the end of last season. Center Tanner Fleming, left guard E.K. Binns and left tackle Bradyn Heap are also returning starters.

Navy started three different fullbacks in 2013, and all return. Noah Copeland will start, but Chris Swain and Quinton Singleton will see plenty of action as part of a potent rotation. The Midshipmen bring back a pair of dynamic slotbacks in DeBrandon Sanders and Geoffrey Whiteside, who ranked second and third on the team, respectively, with 563 and 539 yards from scrimmage. The only question mark on offense comes at wide receiver, where Navy must replace both starters.

STAT CORNER

10

Navy turnovers in 2013, tied for the fewest in the country. Considering the fumbling risk of the option, this is a major accomplishment.

DEFENSE Navy must rebuild the heart of its defense after graduating two nose guards, both starting inside linebackers and the top two safeties.

Bernard Sarra, a powerfully built 303-pounder, returns as the starting nose after doing a superb job of taking on double-teams and plugging the middle a year ago. However, the Midshipmen have a pair of untested sophomores as backups at a position that has always required a rotation.

By far the biggest concern comes at inside linebacker, where the Mids must replace their top tacklers in Cody Peterson (142) and DJ Sargenti (110). Defensive coordinator Buddy Green's 3-4 alignment requires the inside linebackers to make the majority of tackles, and none of the returning players at that position has seen much action beyond special teams. Late in spring camp, Green addressed the lack of experience by moving returning starting outside linebacker Jordan Drake (43 tackles) inside.

Rover Wave Ryder has graduated, and backup Chris Ferguson retired due to concussions. Lonnie Richardson, who also played primarily on special teams in 2013, will get first crack at the job.

Outside linebacker Chris Johnson (84) and free safety Parrish Gaines (65), the defensive captain, are the top returning tacklers. Defensive end Paul Quessenberry and cornerback Brendon Clements (three interceptions) are other key figures on defense.

SPECIALISTS A pair of veterans will handle the kicking chores. Pablo Beltran is only the second four-year starting punter in program history and ranks third all-time at Navy with a 41.1-yard career average. Nick Sloan begins his third season as the starting placekicker and has been fairly reliable, converting 21-of-29 field goals. Demond Brown averaged 22.2 yards on five kickoff returns in 2013 and has the speed to be a dangerous threat in that role.

FINAL ANALYSIS Navy has been one of the most consistent programs in the FBS with a winning record in 10 of the last 11 years. The Midshipmen also have been the dominant service academy during that time, capturing the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy nine times since 2003. In its final season as an Independent before joining the American Athletic Conference in 2015, Navy should sustain its success on both fronts. The Midshipmen have a contract to appear in the San Diego County Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl and should have no problem securing the six wins necessary to be eligible.

KEENAN REYNOLDS

THE QUOTE

"Keenan Reynolds is great. Tough kid. Makes great decisions. He might be the best they've had there at quarterback in a long time."

— An anonymous assistant coach

OFFENSE (7)

WR	86	Jamir Tillman (So.)	89	Thomas Wilson (Jr.)
WR	81	Brendan Dudeck (Sr.)	83	Marc Meier (Jr.)
LT	**62**	**Bradyn Heap (Sr.)**	**61**	**Brandon Greene (Jr.)**
LG	**57**	**E.K. Binns (Jr.)**	60	Ben Tamburello (Jr.)
C	**75**	**Tanner Fleming (Sr.)**	63	Blaze Ryder (Jr.)
RG	**64**	**Jake Zuzek (Sr.)**	67	Nathaniel Otto (Sr.)
RT	65	Joey Gaston (Jr.)	76	Blake Benjamin (Jr.)
QB	**19**	**Keenan Reynolds (Jr.)**	18	Tago Smith (So.)
FB	34	Noah Copeland (Sr.)	37	Chris Swain (Jr.)
SB	21	DeBrandon Sanders (Jr.)	25	Demond Brown (Jr.)
SB	**29**	**Geoffrey Whiteside (Sr.)**	24	Ryan Williams-Jenkins (Sr.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	**45**	**Paul Quessenberry (Sr.)**	92	David Gordeuk (Jr.)
NG	**77**	**Bernard Sarra (Jr.)**	64	Patrick Forrestal (So.)
DE	90	Will Anthony (Jr.)	91	Aaron Davis (Sr.)
OLB	**46**	**Chris Johnson (Sr.)**	38	William Tuider (So.)
ILB	**13**	**Jordan Drake (Sr.)**	51	James Britton (Sr.)
ILB	50	Don Pearson (Jr.)	54	Tyler Goble (Jr.)
OLB	44	Obi Uzoma (Sr.)	88	Ted Colburn (So.)
CB	**1**	**Brendon Clements (So.)**	5	Quincy Adams (Jr.)
CB	**17**	**Kwazel Bertrand (Jr.)**	9	Myer Krah (Jr.)
FS	**2**	**Parrish Gaines (Sr.)**	42	George Jamison (Sr.)
ROV	3	Lonnie Richardson (Sr.)	15	Lorentez Barbour (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	6	Nick Sloan (Jr.)	KR	25	Demond Brown (Jr.)
P	11	Pablo Beltran (Sr.)	PR	25	Demond Brown (Jr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Keenan Reynolds, 128-68-1,057-2, 8 TDs
Rushing: Keenan Reynolds, 300 att., 1,346 yds., 31 TDs
Receiving: DeBrandon Sanders, 13 rec., 223 yds., 1 TD
Tackles: Chris Johnson, 84
Sacks: Jordan Drake, 3
Interceptions: 3 players tied with 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Anthony Neemith/CSM /Landov

NOTRE DAME FIGHTING IRISH

Head Coach: Brian Kelly
Record at School: 37-15 (4 years)
Career Record: 208-72-2 (23 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Mike Denbrock
Defensive Coordinator: Brian VanGorder
South Bend, IN
Notre Dame Stadium (80,795)

2014 SCHEDULE
PROJECTION: 9-3

August	
30	Rice
September	
6	Michigan
13	vs. Purdue #
27	vs. Syracuse %
October	
4	Stanford
11	North Carolina
18	at Florida State
November	
1	vs. Navy $
8	at Arizona State
15	Northwestern
22	Louisville
29	at USC

#Indianapolis, IN %East Rutherford, NJ $Landover, MD

2013 RESULTS (9-4)

Aug. 31	Temple	W	28–6
Sept. 7	at Michigan	L	30–41
Sept. 14	at Purdue	W	31–24
Sept. 21	Michigan State	W	17–13
Sept. 28	Oklahoma	L	21–35
Oct. 5	vs. Arizona State %	W	37–34
Oct. 19	USC	W	14–10
Oct. 26	at Air Force	W	45–10
Nov. 2	Navy	W	38–34
Nov. 9	at Pittsburgh	L	21–28
Nov. 23	BYU	W	23–13
Nov. 30	at Stanford	L	20–27
Dec. 28	vs. Rutgers #	W	29–16

%Arlington #Pinstripe Bowl

TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Nyles Morgan, LB, Crete, IL
2. Quenton Nelson, T, Holmdel, NJ
3. Justin Brent, WR, Indianapolis, IN
4. Alex Bars, T, Nashville, TN
5. Andrew Trumbetti, DL, Demarest, NJ
6. Nick Watkins, CB, De Soto, TX
7. Corey Holmes, WR, Pembroke Pines, FL
8. DeShone Kizer, QB, Toledo, OH
9. Jay Hayes, DT, Brooklyn, NY
10. Nic Weishar, TE, Midlothian, IL

2013 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	National
Scoring	27.2 ppg	74
Rushing	151.3 ypg	80
Passing	254.8 ypg	39
Total	406.2 ypg	67
Defense	**Per Game**	**National**
Scoring	22.4 ppg	27
Rushing	168.0 ypg	70
Passing	198.2 ypg	15
Total	366.2 ypg	31
TO Margin	**Per Game**	**National**
0	0.0	61

OFFENSE Notre Dame has yet to average 30 points per game in any of Brian Kelly's four seasons in South Bend. The main culprit has been the offense's inefficiency in the red zone, scoring just 53 touchdowns in 105 trips (.504) the last two seasons.

The Irish are loaded with offensive potential, beginning with quarterbacks Everett Golson and Malik Zaire and running backs Tarean Folston, Greg Bryant and Cam McDaniel. The receiving corps took a hit with the graduation of wideout TJ Jones and the early departure of tight end Troy Niklas. But DaVaris Daniels headlines a deep albeit inexperienced receiving corps, and Ben Koyack looks primed to follow in the long line of standout tight ends.

The Irish are without left tackle Zack Martin, who started an incredible 52 straight games from 2010-13, and his left guard running mate, Chris Watt. But Zack's younger brother, Nick Martin, holds down the center job, and Ronnie Stanley has the skills to ably follow Zack Martin at left tackle with veteran Christian Lombard returning to the right side at guard.

DEFENSE Irish fans grew impatient with Bob Diaco's bend-but-don't-break, keep-the-football-in-front-of-you approach, because it seldom created turnovers. But it did keep points off the scoreboard. The Irish allowed an average of 17.9 points per game from 2010-12. In '13, the worst under Diaco, they still allowed just 22.4 points per game and held five of 13 opponents to 13 points or less.

Diaco is now the head coach at Connecticut. Enter Brian VanGorder, who has been plying his trade in the NFL after coordinating one of the best defenses at Georgia a decade ago.

The Irish lose five starters on the front seven, led by nose guard Louis Nix III and defensive end Stephon Tuitt. Inside linebacker Jarrett Grace may have to skip the 2014 season as he continues a slow recovery from a nasty leg injury. That would leave the Irish with a former walk-on, undersized Joe Schmidt, lining up next to the team's most dynamic defensive player, Jaylon Smith, who moves from Sam to Will linebacker.

KeiVarae Russell looks like one of the best cornerbacks in the nation. Sophomore Cole Luke will challenge fifth-year Florida transfer Cody Riggs for the starting job opposite Russell. Fifth-year senior Austin Collinsworth heads into '14 on a three-game interception streak. Sophomore Max Redfield, a former five-star recruit, takes over at the other safety.

SPECIALISTS Kyle Brindza talks like a football player, not a kicker, and looks like a linebacker. He converted 23-of-31 field goals in 2012 and 20-of-26 in 2013 with half his games coming on Notre Dame's treacherous old stadium turf. Brindza also took over punting duties last fall, averaging 41.1 yards per attempt.

FINAL ANALYSIS Kelly took Cincinnati to BCS games in back-to-back seasons (2008-09) and Notre Dame to the national championship game in 2012. He did it with offense in Cincinnati and defense at Notre Dame.

With a defense that loses five of its front seven — a year after it bid farewell to Manti Te'o, the most decorated defensive football player in college football history — it's imperative that Kelly and his new offensive coordinator, long-time assistant/first-time coordinator Mike Denbrock, carry the lion's share of the burden in 2014 while the defense gets its bearings.

If the offense can average 30-plus points per game — which means producing against good defenses, too — and VanGorder can create a productive, up-tempo defensive attack to mask some of the unit's deficiencies, the Irish could make a run at a spot in the initial College Football Playoff.

STAT CORNER

7

Teams signing top-10 recruiting classes in each of the last two years. The Irish finished fifth in 2013, 10th in 2014.

JAYLON SMITH

THE QUOTE

"It will help if they can develop a home-run hitter, and maybe the receiver (DaVaris Daniels) could be that for them."

— An opposing assistant coach

OFFENSE (4)

WR	10	**DaVaris Daniels (Jr.)**	2	Chris Brown (Jr.)
WR	88	Corey Robinson (So.)	7	Will Fuller (So.)
WR	20	C.J. Prosise (So.)	3	Amir Carlisle (Jr.)
LT	78	**Ronnie Stanley (So.)**	70	Hunter Bivin (Fr.)
LG	77	Matt Hegarty (Jr.)	65	Conor Hanratty (Jr.)
C	72	**Nick Martin (Jr.)**	75	Mark Harrell (Jr.)
RG	74	**Christian Lombard (Sr.)**	60	John Montelus (Fr.)
RT	79	Steve Elmer (So)	68	Mike McGlinchey (Fr.)
TE	18	Ben Koyack (Sr.)	80	Durham Smythe (Fr.)
QB	5	Everett Golson (Jr.)	8	Malik Zaire (Fr.)
RB	25	Tarean Folston (So.)	1	Greg Bryant (Fr.)

DEFENSE (5)

DE	11	Ishaq Williams (Sr.)	90	Isaac Rochell (So.)
NT	94	Jarron Jones (So.)	69	Tony Springmann (Jr.)
DT	91	**Sheldon Day (Jr.)**	50	Chase Hounshell (Jr.)
DE	45	Romeo Okwara (Jr.)	56	Anthony Rabasa (Jr.)
SLB	30	Ben Councell (Jr.)	31	John Turner (So.)
MLB	59	Jarrett Grace (Jr.)	38	Joe Schmidt (Jr.)
WLB	9	**Jaylon Smith (So.)**	30	Ben Councell (Jr.)
CB	6	**KeiVarae Russell (Jr.)**	3	Cole Luke (So.)
CB	2	Cody Riggs (Sr.)	41	**Matthias Farley (Jr.)**
S	28	**Austin Collinsworth (Sr.)**	22	Elijah Shumate (Jr.)
S	10	Max Redfield (So.)	16	Eilar Hardy (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	27	Kyle Brindza (Sr.)	KR	3	Amir Carlisle (Jr.)
P	27	Kyle Brindza (Sr.)	PR	1	Greg Bryant (Fr.)

RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Everett Golson, 318-187-2,405-6, 12 TDs (2012 stats)
Rushing: Cam McDaniel, 152 att., 705 yds., 3 TDs
Receiving: DaVaris Daniels, 49 rec., 745 yds., 7 TDs
Tackles: Jaylon Smith, 67
Sacks: Jarron Jones, 1.0; Ishaq Williams, 1.0
Interceptions: Austin Collinsworth, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

Tom Lynn/Athlon Sports

SCHEDULES

ACC

BOSTON COLLEGE (7-6, 4-4)
Chestnut Hill, MA
Aug. 30 at Massachusetts
Sept. 5 Pittsburgh
Sept. 13 USC
Sept. 20 Maine
Sept. 27 Colorado State
Oct. 11 at NC State
Oct. 18 Clemson
Oct. 25 at Wake Forest
Nov. 1 at Virginia Tech
Nov. 8 Louisville
Nov. 22 at Florida State
Nov. 29 Syracuse

CLEMSON (11-2, 7-1)
Clemson, SC
Aug. 30 at Georgia
Sept. 6 South Carolina State
Sept. 20 at Florida State
Sept. 27 North Carolina
Oct. 4 NC State
Oct. 11 Louisville
Oct. 18 at Boston College
Oct. 25 Syracuse
Nov. 6 at Wake Forest
Nov. 15 at Georgia Tech
Nov. 22 Georgia State
Nov. 29 South Carolina

DUKE (10-4, 6-2)
Durham, NC
Aug. 30 Elon
Sept. 6 at Troy
Sept. 13 Kansas
Sept. 20 Tulane
Sept. 27 at Miami
Oct. 11 at Georgia Tech
Oct. 18 Virginia
Nov. 1 at Pittsburgh
Nov. 8 at Syracuse
Nov. 15 Virginia Tech
Nov. 20 North Carolina
Nov. 29 Wake Forest

FLORIDA STATE (14-0, 8-0)
Tallahassee, FL
Aug. 30 vs. Oklahoma State #
Sept. 6 The Citadel
Sept. 20 Clemson
Sept. 27 at NC State
Oct. 4 Wake Forest
Oct. 11 at Syracuse
Oct. 18 Notre Dame
Oct. 30 at Louisville
Nov. 8 Virginia
Nov. 15 at Miami
Nov. 22 Boston College
Nov. 29 Florida
#Arlington, TX

GEORGIA TECH (7-6, 5-3)
Atlanta, GA
Aug. 30 Wofford
Sept. 6 at Tulane
Sept. 13 Georgia Southern
Sept. 20 at Virginia Tech
Oct. 4 Miami
Oct. 11 Duke
Oct. 18 at North Carolina
Oct. 25 at Pittsburgh
Nov. 1 Virginia
Nov. 8 at NC State
Nov. 15 Clemson
Nov. 29 at Georgia

LOUISVILLE (12-1, 7-1 AAC)
Louisville, KY
Sept. 1 Miami
Sept. 6 Murray State
Sept. 13 at Virginia
Sept. 20 at FIU
Sept. 27 Wake Forest
Oct. 3 at Syracuse
Oct. 11 at Clemson
Oct. 18 NC State
Oct. 30 Florida State
Nov. 8 at Boston College
Nov. 22 at Notre Dame
Nov. 29 Kentucky

MIAMI (9-4, 5-3)
Coral Gables, FL
Sept. 1 at Louisville
Sept. 6 Florida A&M
Sept. 13 Arkansas State
Sept. 20 at Nebraska
Sept. 27 Duke
Oct. 4 at Georgia Tech
Oct. 11 Cincinnati
Oct. 23 at Virginia Tech
Nov. 1 North Carolina
Nov. 15 Florida State
Nov. 22 at Virginia
Nov. 29 Pittsburgh

NORTH CAROLINA (7-6, 4-4)
Chapel Hill, NC
Aug. 30 Liberty
Sept. 6 San Diego State
Sept. 20 at East Carolina
Sept. 27 at Clemson
Oct. 4 Virginia Tech
Oct. 11 at Notre Dame
Oct. 18 Georgia Tech
Oct. 25 at Virginia
Nov. 1 at Miami
Nov. 15 Pittsburgh
Nov. 20 at Duke
Nov. 29 NC State

NC STATE (3-9, 0-8)
Raleigh, NC
Aug. 30 Georgia Southern
Sept. 6 Old Dominion
Sept. 13 at South Florida
Sept. 20 Presbyterian
Sept. 27 Florida State
Oct. 4 at Clemson
Oct. 11 Boston College
Oct. 18 at Louisville
Nov. 1 at Syracuse
Nov. 8 Georgia Tech
Nov. 15 Wake Forest
Nov. 29 at North Carolina

PITTSBURGH (7-6, 3-5)
Pittsburgh, PA
Aug. 30 Delaware
Sept. 5 at Boston College
Sept. 13 at FIU
Sept. 20 Iowa
Sept. 27 Akron
Oct. 4 at Virginia
Oct. 16 Virginia Tech
Oct. 25 Georgia Tech
Nov. 1 Duke
Nov. 15 at North Carolina
Nov. 22 Syracuse
Nov. 29 at Miami

SYRACUSE (7-6, 4-4)
Syracuse, NY
Aug. 28 Villanova
Sept. 13 at Central Michigan
Sept. 20 Maryland
Sept. 27 Notre Dame #
Oct. 3 Louisville
Oct. 11 Florida State
Oct. 18 at Wake Forest
Oct. 25 at Clemson
Nov. 1 NC State
Nov. 8 Duke
Nov. 22 at Pittsburgh
Nov. 29 at Boston College
#East Rutherford, NJ

VIRGINIA (2-10, 0-8)
Charlottesville, VA
Aug. 30 UCLA
Sept. 6 Richmond
Sept. 13 Louisville
Sept. 20 at BYU
Sept. 27 Kent State
Oct. 4 Pittsburgh
Oct. 18 at Duke
Oct. 25 North Carolina
Nov. 1 at Georgia Tech
Nov. 8 at Florida State
Nov. 22 Miami
Nov. 28 at Virginia Tech

VIRGINIA TECH (8-5, 5-3)
Blacksburg, VA
Aug. 30 William & Mary
Sept. 6 at Ohio State
Sept. 13 East Carolina
Sept. 20 Georgia Tech
Sept. 27 Western Michigan
Oct. 4 at North Carolina
Oct. 16 at Pittsburgh
Oct. 23 Miami
Nov. 1 Boston College
Nov. 15 at Duke
Nov. 22 at Wake Forest
Nov. 28 Virginia

WAKE FOREST (4-8, 2-6)
Winston-Salem, NC
Aug. 28 at UL Monroe
Sept. 6 Gardner-Webb
Sept. 13 at Utah State
Sept. 20 Army
Sept. 27 at Louisville
Oct. 4 at Florida State
Oct. 18 Syracuse
Oct. 25 Boston College
Nov. 6 Clemson
Nov. 15 at NC State
Nov. 22 Virginia Tech
Nov. 29 at Duke

AMERICAN

CINCINNATI (9-4, 6-2)
Cincinnati, OH
Sept. 12 Toledo
Sept. 20 Miami (Ohio)
Sept. 27 at Ohio State
Oct. 4 Memphis
Oct. 11 at Miami
Oct. 18 at SMU
Oct. 24 South Florida
Oct. 31 at Tulane
Nov. 15 East Carolina
Nov. 22 at Connecticut
Nov. 29 at Temple
Dec. 6 Houston

CONNECTICUT (3-9, 3-5)
Storrs, CT
Aug. 29 BYU
Sept. 6 Stony Brook
Sept. 13 Boise State
Sept. 19 at South Florida
Sept. 27 Temple
Oct. 11 at Tulane
Oct. 23 at East Carolina
Nov. 1 UCF
Nov. 8 vs. Army #
Nov. 22 Cincinnati
Nov. 29 at Memphis
Dec. 6 SMU
#Bronx, NY

EAST CAROLINA (10-3, 6-2 C-USA)
Greenville, NC
Aug. 30 NC Central
Sept. 6 at South Carolina
Sept. 13 at Virginia Tech
Sept. 20 North Carolina
Oct. 4 SMU
Oct. 11 at South Florida
Oct. 23 Connecticut
Nov. 1 at Temple
Nov. 15 at Cincinnati
Nov. 22 Tulane
Nov. 28 at Tulsa
Dec. 4 UCF

HOUSTON (8-5, 5-3)
Houston, TX
Aug. 29 UTSA
Sept. 6 Grambling
Sept. 11 at BYU
Sept. 27 Tennessee Tech
Oct. 2 UCF
Oct. 11 at Memphis
Oct. 17 Temple
Nov. 1 at South Florida
Nov. 8 Tulane
Nov. 22 Tulsa
Nov. 28 at SMU
Dec. 6 at Cincinnati

MEMPHIS (3-9, 1-7)
Memphis, TN
Aug. 30 Austin Peay
Sept. 6 at UCLA
Sept. 20 Middle Tennessee
Sept. 27 at Ole Miss
Oct. 4 at Cincinnati
Oct. 11 Houston
Oct. 25 at SMU
Oct. 31 Tulsa
Nov. 7 at Temple
Nov. 15 at Tulane
Nov. 22 South Florida
Nov. 29 Connecticut

SMU (5-7, 4-4)
Dallas, TX
Aug. 31 at Baylor
Sept. 6 at North Texas
Sept. 20 Texas A&M
Sept. 27 TCU
Oct. 4 at East Carolina
Oct. 18 Cincinnati
Oct. 25 Memphis
Nov. 8 at Tulsa
Nov. 15 South Florida
Nov. 22 at UCF
Nov. 29 Houston
Dec. 6 at Connecticut

SOUTH FLORIDA (2-10, 2-6)
Tampa, FL
Aug. 30 Western Carolina
Sept. 6 Maryland
Sept. 13 NC State
Sept. 19 Connecticut
Sept. 27 at Wisconsin
Oct. 11 East Carolina
Oct. 18 at Tulsa
Oct. 24 at Cincinnati
Nov. 1 Houston
Nov. 15 at SMU
Nov. 22 at Memphis
Nov. 28 UCF

TEMPLE (2-10, 1-7)
Philadelphia, PA
Aug. 28 at Vanderbilt
Sept. 6 Navy
Sept. 20 Delaware State
Sept. 27 at Connecticut
Oct. 11 Tulsa
Oct. 17 at Houston
Oct. 25 at UCF
Nov. 1 East Carolina
Nov. 7 Memphis
Nov. 15 at Penn State
Nov. 29 Cincinnati
Dec. 6 at Tulane

TULANE (7-6, 5-3 C-USA)
New Orleans, LA
Aug. 28 at Tulsa
Sept. 6 Georgia Tech
Sept. 13 SE Louisiana
Sept. 20 at Duke
Sept. 27 at Rutgers
Oct. 11 Connecticut
Oct. 18 at UCF
Oct. 31 Cincinnati
Nov. 8 at Houston
Nov. 15 Memphis
Nov. 22 at East Carolina
Dec. 6 Temple

TULSA (3-9, 2-6 C-USA)
Tulsa, OK
Aug. 28 Tulane
Sept. 6 Oklahoma
Sept. 13 at Florida Atlantic
Sept. 27 Texas State
Oct. 4 at Colorado State
Oct. 11 at Temple
Oct. 18 South Florida
Oct. 31 at Memphis
Nov. 8 SMU
Nov. 14 at UCF
Nov. 22 at Houston
Nov. 28 East Carolina

UCF (12-1, 8-0)
Orlando, FL
Aug. 30 vs. Penn State #
Sept. 13 at Missouri
Sept. 20 Bethune-Cookman
Oct. 2 at Houston
Oct. 9 BYU
Oct. 18 Tulane
Oct. 25 Temple
Nov. 1 at Connecticut
Nov. 14 Tulsa
Nov. 22 SMU
Nov. 28 at South Florida
Dec. 4 at East Carolina
#Dublin, Ireland

BIG TEN

ILLINOIS (4-8, 1-7)
Champaign, IL
Aug. 30 Youngstown State
Sept. 6 Western Kentucky
Sept. 13 at Washington
Sept. 20 Texas State
Sept. 27 at Nebraska
Oct. 4 Purdue
Oct. 11 at Wisconsin
Oct. 25 Minnesota
Nov. 1 at Ohio State
Nov. 15 Iowa
Nov. 22 Penn State
Nov. 29 at Northwestern

INDIANA (5-7, 3-5)
Bloomington, IN
Aug. 30 Indiana State
Sept. 13 at Bowling Green
Sept. 20 at Missouri
Sept. 27 Maryland
Oct. 4 North Texas
Oct. 11 at Iowa
Oct. 18 Michigan State
Nov. 1 at Michigan
Nov. 8 Penn State
Nov. 15 at Rutgers
Nov. 22 at Ohio State
Nov. 29 Purdue

IOWA (8-5, 5-3)
Iowa City, IA
Aug. 30 Northern Iowa
Sept. 6 Ball State
Sept. 13 Iowa State
Sept. 20 at Pittsburgh
Sept. 27 at Purdue
Oct. 11 Indiana
Oct. 18 at Maryland
Nov. 1 Northwestern
Nov. 8 at Minnesota
Nov. 15 at Illinois
Nov. 22 Wisconsin
Nov. 28 Nebraska

MARYLAND (7-6, 3-5 ACC)
College Park, MD
Aug. 30 James Madison
Sept. 6 at South Florida
Sept. 13 West Virginia
Sept. 20 at Syracuse
Sept. 27 at Indiana
Oct. 4 Ohio State
Oct. 18 Iowa
Oct. 25 at Wisconsin
Nov. 1 at Penn State
Nov. 15 Michigan State
Nov. 22 at Michigan
Nov. 29 Rutgers

MICHIGAN (7-6, 3-5)
Ann Arbor, MI
Aug. 30 Appalachian State
Sept. 6 at Notre Dame
Sept. 13 Miami (OH)
Sept. 20 Utah
Sept. 27 Minnesota
Oct. 4 at Rutgers
Oct. 11 Penn State
Oct. 25 at Michigan State
Nov. 1 Indiana
Nov. 8 at Northwestern
Nov. 22 Maryland
Nov. 29 at Ohio State

MICHIGAN STATE (13-1, 8-0)
East Lansing, MI
Aug. 29 Jacksonville State
Sept. 6 at Oregon
Sept. 20 Eastern Michigan
Sept. 27 Wyoming
Oct. 4 Nebraska
Oct. 11 at Purdue
Oct. 18 at Indiana
Oct. 25 Michigan
Nov. 8 Ohio State
Nov. 15 at Maryland
Nov. 22 Rutgers
Nov. 29 at Penn State

MINNESOTA (8-5, 4-4)
Minneapolis, MN
Aug. 28 Eastern Illinois
Sept. 6 Middle Tennessee
Sept. 13 at TCU
Sept. 20 San Jose State
Sept. 27 at Michigan
Oct. 11 Northwestern
Oct. 18 Purdue
Oct. 25 at Illinois
Nov. 8 Iowa
Nov. 15 Ohio State
Nov. 22 at Nebraska
Nov. 29 at Wisconsin

NEBRASKA (9-4, 5-3)
Lincoln, NE
Aug. 30 Florida Atlantic
Sept. 6 McNeese State
Sept. 13 at Fresno State
Sept. 20 Miami
Sept. 27 Illinois
Oct. 4 at Michigan State
Oct. 18 at Northwestern
Oct. 25 Rutgers
Nov. 1 Purdue
Nov. 15 at Wisconsin
Nov. 22 Minnesota
Nov. 28 at Iowa

NORTHWESTERN (5-7, 1-7)
Evanston, IL
Aug. 30 California
Sept. 6 Northern Illinois
Sept. 20 Western Illinois
Sept. 27 at Penn State
Oct. 4 Wisconsin
Oct. 11 at Minnesota
Oct. 18 Nebraska
Nov. 1 at Iowa
Nov. 8 Michigan
Nov. 15 at Notre Dame
Nov. 22 at Purdue
Nov. 29 Illinois

OHIO STATE (12-2, 8-0)
Columbus, OH
Aug. 30 vs. Navy #
Sept. 6 Virginia Tech
Sept. 13 Kent State
Sept. 27 Cincinnati
Oct. 4 at Maryland
Oct. 18 Rutgers
Oct. 25 at Penn State
Nov. 1 Illinois
Nov. 8 at Michigan State
Nov. 15 at Minnesota
Nov. 22 Indiana
Nov. 29 Michigan
#Baltimore, MD

PENN STATE (7-5, 4-4)
University Park, PA
Aug. 30 vs. UCF #
Sept. 6 Akron
Sept. 13 at Rutgers
Sept. 20 Massachusetts
Sept. 27 Northwestern
Oct. 11 at Michigan
Oct. 25 Ohio State
Nov. 1 Maryland
Nov. 8 at Indiana
Nov. 15 Temple
Nov. 22 at Illinois
Nov. 29 Michigan State
#Dublin, Ireland

PURDUE (1-11, 0-8)
West Lafayette, IN
Aug. 30 Western Michigan
Sept. 6 Central Michigan
Sept. 13 vs. Notre Dame #
Sept. 20 Southern Illinois
Sept. 27 Iowa
Oct. 4 at Illinois
Oct. 11 Michigan State
Oct. 18 at Minnesota
Nov. 1 at Nebraska
Nov. 8 Wisconsin
Nov. 22 Northwestern
Nov. 29 at Indiana
#Indianapolis, IN

RUTGERS (6-7, 3-5 AAC)
New Brunswick, NJ
Aug. 28 vs. Wash. State #
Sept. 6 Howard
Sept. 13 Penn State
Sept. 20 at Navy
Sept. 27 Tulane
Oct. 4 Michigan
Oct. 18 at Ohio State
Oct. 25 at Nebraska
Nov. 1 Wisconsin
Nov. 15 Indiana
Nov. 22 at Michigan State
Nov. 29 at Maryland
#Seattle, WA

WISCONSIN (9-4, 6-2)
Madison, WI
Aug. 30 vs. LSU #
Sept. 6 Western Illinois
Sept. 20 Bowling Green
Sept. 27 South Florida
Oct. 4 at Northwestern
Oct. 11 Illinois
Oct. 25 Maryland
Nov. 1 at Rutgers
Nov. 8 at Purdue
Nov. 15 Nebraska
Nov. 22 at Iowa
Nov. 29 Minnesota
#Houston, TX

BIG 12

BAYLOR (11-2, 8-1)
Waco, TX
Aug. 31 SMU
Sept. 6 Northwestern State
Sept. 13 at Buffalo
Sept. 27 at Iowa State
Oct. 4 at Texas
Oct. 11 TCU
Oct. 18 at West Virginia
Nov. 1 Kansas
Nov. 8 at Oklahoma
Nov. 22 Oklahoma State
Nov. 29 vs. Texas Tech #
Dec. 6 Kansas State
#Arlington, TX

IOWA STATE (3-9, 2-7)
Ames, IA
Aug. 30 North Dakota State
Sept. 6 Kansas State
Sept. 13 at Iowa
Sept. 27 Baylor
Oct. 4 at Oklahoma State
Oct. 11 Toledo
Oct. 18 at Texas
Nov. 1 Oklahoma
Nov. 8 at Kansas
Nov. 22 Texas Tech
Nov. 29 West Virginia
Dec. 6 at TCU

KANSAS (3-9, 1-8)
Lawrence, KS
Sept. 6 SE Missouri State
Sept. 13 at Duke
Sept. 20 Central Michigan
Sept. 27 Texas
Oct. 4 at West Virginia
Oct. 11 Oklahoma State
Oct. 18 at Texas Tech
Nov. 1 at Baylor
Nov. 8 Iowa State
Nov. 15 TCU
Nov. 22 at Oklahoma
Nov. 29 at Kansas State

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0.9821 (+25.56)	x

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2014 FBS SCHEDULES

KANSAS STATE (8-5, 5-4)
Manhattan, KS
Aug. 30 Stephen F. Austin
Sept. 6 at Iowa State
Sept. 18 Auburn
Sept. 27 UTEP
Oct. 4 Texas Tech
Oct. 18 at Oklahoma
Oct. 25 Texas
Nov. 1 Oklahoma State
Nov. 8 at TCU
Nov. 20 at West Virginia
Nov. 29 Kansas
Dec. 6 at Baylor

OKLAHOMA (11-2, 7-2)
Norman, OK
Aug. 30 Louisiana Tech
Sept. 6 at Tulsa
Sept. 13 Tennessee
Sept. 20 at West Virginia
Oct. 4 at TCU
Oct. 11 vs. Texas #
Oct. 18 Kansas State
Nov. 1 at Iowa State
Nov. 8 Baylor
Nov. 15 at Texas Tech
Nov. 22 Kansas
Dec. 6 Oklahoma State
#Dallas, TX

OKLAHOMA STATE (10-3, 7-2)
Stillwater, OK
Aug. 30 vs. Florida State #
Sept. 6 Missouri State
Sept. 13 UTSA
Sept. 25 Texas Tech
Oct. 4 Iowa State
Oct. 11 at Kansas
Oct. 18 at TCU
Oct. 25 West Virginia
Nov. 1 at Kansas State
Nov. 15 Texas
Nov. 22 at Baylor
Dec. 6 at Oklahoma
#Arlington, TX

TCU (4-8, 2-7)
Fort Worth, TX
Aug. 30 Samford
Sept. 13 Minnesota
Sept. 27 at SMU
Oct. 4 Oklahoma
Oct. 11 at Baylor
Oct. 18 Oklahoma
Oct. 25 Texas Tech
Nov. 1 at West Virginia
Nov. 8 Kansas State
Nov. 15 at Kansas
Nov. 27 at Texas
Dec. 6 Iowa State

TEXAS (8-5, 7-2)
Austin, TX
Aug. 30 North Texas
Sept. 6 BYU
Sept. 13 vs. UCLA #
Sept. 27 at Kansas
Oct. 4 Baylor
Oct. 11 vs. Oklahoma %
Oct. 18 Iowa State
Oct. 25 at Kansas State
Nov. 1 at Texas Tech
Nov. 8 West Virginia
Nov. 15 at Oklahoma State
Nov. 27 TCU
#Arlington, TX %Dallas, TX

TEXAS TECH (8-5, 4-5)
Lubbock, TX
Aug. 30 Central Arkansas
Sept. 6 at UTEP
Sept. 13 Arkansas
Sept. 25 at Oklahoma State
Oct. 4 at Kansas State
Oct. 11 West Virginia
Oct. 18 Kansas
Oct. 25 at TCU
Nov. 1 Texas
Nov. 15 Oklahoma
Nov. 22 at Iowa State
Nov. 29 vs. Baylor #
#Arlington, TX

WEST VIRGINIA (4-8, 2-7)
Morgantown, WV
Aug. 30 vs. Alabama #
Sept. 6 Towson
Sept. 13 at Maryland
Sept. 20 Oklahoma
Oct. 4 Kansas
Oct. 11 at Texas Tech
Oct. 18 Baylor
Oct. 25 at Oklahoma State
Nov. 1 TCU
Nov. 8 at Texas
Nov. 20 Kansas State
Nov. 29 at Iowa State
#Atlanta, GA

CONFERENCE USA

FLORIDA ATLANTIC (6-6, 4-4)
Boca Raton, FL
Aug. 30 at Nebraska
Sept. 6 at Alabama
Sept. 13 Tulsa
Sept. 20 at Wyoming
Sept. 27 UTSA
Oct. 2 at FIU
Oct. 18 Western Kentucky
Oct. 25 at Marshall
Nov. 1 UAB
Nov. 8 at North Texas
Nov. 22 at Middle Tennessee
Nov. 29 Old Dominion

FIU (1-11, 1-7)
Miami, FL
Aug. 30 Bethune-Cookman
Sept. 6 Wagner
Sept. 13 Pittsburgh
Sept. 20 Louisville
Sept. 27 at UAB
Oct. 2 Florida Atlantic
Oct. 11 at UTSA
Oct. 18 Marshall
Nov. 1 Rice
Nov. 8 at Old Dominion
Nov. 15 Middle Tennessee
Nov. 22 at North Texas

LOUISIANA TECH (4-8, 3-5)
Ruston, LA
Aug. 30 at Oklahoma
Sept. 6 at UL Lafayette
Sept. 11 at North Texas
Sept. 20 Northwestern State
Sept. 27 at Auburn
Oct. 4 UTEP
Oct. 18 UTSA
Oct. 25 at Southern Miss
Nov. 1 Western Kentucky
Nov. 8 at UAB
Nov. 22 at Old Dominion
Nov. 29 Rice

MARSHALL (10-4, 7-1)
Huntington, WV
Aug. 30 at Miami (Ohio)
Sept. 6 Rhode Island
Sept. 13 Ohio
Sept. 20 at Akron
Oct. 4 at Old Dominion
Oct. 11 Middle Tennessee
Oct. 18 at FIU
Oct. 25 Florida Atlantic
Nov. 8 at Southern Miss
Nov. 15 Rice
Nov. 22 at UAB
Nov. 28 Western Kentucky

MIDDLE TENNESSEE (8-5, 6-2)
Murfreesboro, TN
Aug. 30 Savannah State
Sept. 6 at Minnesota
Sept. 13 WKU
Sept. 20 at Memphis
Sept. 27 at Old Dominion
Oct. 4 Southern Miss
Oct. 11 at Marshall
Oct. 18 UAB
Nov. 1 BYU
Nov. 15 at FIU
Nov. 22 Florida Atlantic
Nov. 29 at UTEP

NORTH TEXAS (9-4, 6-2)
Denton, TX
Aug. 30 at Texas
Sept. 6 SMU
Sept. 11 Louisiana Tech
Sept. 20 Nicholls State
Oct. 4 at Indiana
Oct. 11 at UAB
Oct. 18 Southern Miss
Oct. 25 at Rice
Nov. 8 Florida Atlantic
Nov. 15 at UTEP
Nov. 22 FIU
Nov. 29 at UTSA

OLD DOMINION (8-4)
Norfolk, VA
Aug. 30 Hampton
Sept. 6 at NC State
Sept. 13 Eastern Michigan
Sept. 20 at Rice
Sept. 26 Middle Tennessee
Oct. 4 Marshall
Oct. 11 at UTEP
Oct. 25 at Western Kentucky
Nov. 1 at Vanderbilt
Nov. 8 FIU
Nov. 22 Louisiana Tech
Nov. 29 at Florida Atlantic

RICE (10-4, 7-1)
Houston, TX
Aug. 30 at Notre Dame
Sept. 13 at Texas A&M
Sept. 20 Old Dominion
Sept. 27 at Southern Miss
Oct. 11 at Army
Oct. 25 North Texas
Nov. 1 at FIU
Nov. 8 UTSA
Nov. 15 at Marshall
Nov. 21 UTEP
Nov. 29 at Louisiana Tech

SOUTHERN MISS (1-11, 1-7)
Hattiesburg, MS
Aug. 30 at Mississippi State
Sept. 6 Alcorn State
Sept. 13 at Alabama
Sept. 20 Appalachian State
Sept. 27 Rice
Oct. 4 at Middle Tennessee
Oct. 18 at North Texas
Oct. 25 Louisiana Tech
Nov. 1 at UTEP
Nov. 8 Marshall
Nov. 13 at UTSA
Nov. 29 UAB

UAB (2-10, 1-7)
Birmingham, AL
Aug. 30 Troy
Sept. 6 at Mississippi State
Sept. 13 Alabama A&M
Sept. 27 FIU
Oct. 4 at Western Kentucky
Oct. 11 North Texas
Oct. 18 at Middle Tennessee
Oct. 25 at Arkansas
Nov. 1 at Florida Atlantic
Nov. 8 Louisiana Tech
Nov. 22 Marshall
Nov. 29 at Southern Miss

UTEP (2-10, 1-7)
El Paso, TX
Aug. 30 at New Mexico
Sept. 6 Texas Tech
Sept. 13 New Mexico State
Sept. 27 at Kansas State
Oct. 4 at Louisiana Tech
Oct. 11 Old Dominion
Oct. 25 at UTSA
Nov. 1 Southern Miss
Nov. 8 at Western Kentucky
Nov. 15 North Texas
Nov. 21 at Rice
Nov. 29 Middle Tennessee

UTSA (7-5, 6-2)
San Antonio, TX
Aug. 29 at Houston
Sept. 4 Arizona
Sept. 13 at Oklahoma State
Sept. 27 at Florida Atlantic
Oct. 4 New Mexico
Oct. 11 FIU
Oct. 18 at Louisiana Tech
Oct. 25 UTEP
Nov. 8 at Rice
Nov. 13 Southern Miss
Nov. 22 at Western Kentucky
Nov. 29 North Texas

WESTERN KENTUCKY (8-4, 4-3 Sun Belt)
Bowling Green, KY
Aug. 29 Bowling Green
Sept. 6 at Illinois
Sept. 13 at Middle Tennessee
Sept. 27 at Navy
Oct. 4 UAB
Oct. 18 at Florida Atlantic
Oct. 25 Old Dominion
Nov. 1 at Louisiana Tech
Nov. 8 UTEP
Nov. 15 Army
Nov. 22 UTSA
Nov. 28 at Marshall

MAC

AKRON (5-7, 4-4)
Akron, OH
Aug. 28 Howard
Sept. 6 at Penn State
Sept. 20 Marshall
Sept. 27 at Pittsburgh
Oct. 4 Eastern Michigan
Oct. 11 Miami (Ohio)
Oct. 18 at Ohio
Oct. 25 at Ball State
Nov. 4 Bowling Green
Nov. 11 at Buffalo
Nov. 18 Massachusetts
Nov. 25 at Kent State

BALL STATE (10-3, 7-1)
Muncie, IN
Aug. 30 Colgate
Sept. 6 at Iowa
Sept. 13 Indiana State
Sept. 20 at Toledo
Oct. 4 at Army
Oct. 11 Western Michigan
Oct. 18 at Central Michigan
Oct. 25 Akron
Nov. 5 Northern Illinois
Nov. 12 at Massachusetts
Nov. 22 Eastern Michigan
Nov. 28 at Bowling Green

BOWLING GREEN (10-4, 7-1)
Bowling Green, OH
Aug. 29 at Western Kentucky
Sept. 6 VMI
Sept. 13 Indiana
Sept. 20 at Wisconsin
Sept. 27 at Massachusetts
Oct. 4 Buffalo
Oct. 11 at Ohio
Oct. 18 Western Michigan
Nov. 4 at Akron
Nov. 12 Kent State
Nov. 19 at Toledo
Nov. 28 Ball State

BUFFALO (8-5, 6-2)
Buffalo, NY
Aug. 30 Duquesne
Sept. 6 at Army
Sept. 12 Baylor
Sept. 20 Norfolk State
Sept. 27 Miami (Ohio)
Oct. 4 at Bowling Green
Oct. 11 at Eastern Michigan
Oct. 25 Central Michigan
Nov. 5 at Ohio
Nov. 11 Akron
Nov. 19 Kent State
Nov. 28 at Massachusetts

CENTRAL MICHIGAN (6-6, 5-3)
Mt. Pleasant, MI
Aug. 28 Chattanooga
Sept. 6 at Purdue
Sept. 13 Syracuse
Sept. 20 at Kansas
Sept. 27 at Toledo
Oct. 4 Ohio
Oct. 11 at Northern Illinois
Oct. 18 Ball State
Oct. 25 at Buffalo
Nov. 1 at Eastern Michigan
Nov. 15 Miami (Ohio)
Nov. 22 Western Michigan

EASTERN MICHIGAN (2-10, 1-7)
Ypsilanti, MI
Aug. 30 Morgan State
Sept. 6 at Florida
Sept. 13 at Old Dominion
Sept. 20 at Michigan State
Oct. 4 at Akron
Oct. 11 Buffalo
Oct. 18 at Massachusetts
Oct. 25 Northern Illinois
Nov. 1 Central Michigan
Nov. 15 at Western Michigan
Nov. 22 at Ball State
Nov. 28 Toledo

KENT STATE (4-8, 3-5)
Kent, OH
Aug. 30 Ohio
Sept. 6 South Alabama
Sept. 13 at Ohio State
Sept. 27 at Virginia
Oct. 4 at Northern Illinois
Oct. 11 Massachusetts
Oct. 18 Army
Oct. 25 at Miami (Ohio)
Nov. 4 Toledo
Nov. 12 at Bowling Green
Nov. 19 at Buffalo
Nov. 25 Akron

MASSACHUSETTS (1-11, 1-7)
Amherst, MA*
Aug. 30 Boston College
Sept. 6 Colorado
Sept. 13 at Vanderbilt
Sept. 20 at Penn State
Sept. 27 Bowling Green
Oct. 4 at Miami (Ohio)
Oct. 11 at Kent State
Oct. 18 Eastern Michigan
Oct. 25 at Toledo
Nov. 12 Ball State
Nov. 18 at Akron
Nov. 28 Buffalo
*All home games at Gillette Field

MIAMI (OH) (0-12, 0-8)
Oxford, OH
Aug. 30 Marshall
Sept. 6 Eastern Kentucky
Sept. 13 at Michigan
Sept. 20 at Cincinnati
Sept. 27 at Buffalo
Oct. 4 Massachusetts
Oct. 11 at Akron
Oct. 18 at Northern Illinois
Oct. 25 Kent State
Nov. 1 Western Michigan
Nov. 15 at Central Michigan
Nov. 25 Ohio

NORTHERN ILLINOIS (12-2, 8-0)
Dekalb, IL
Aug. 28 Presbyterian
Sept. 6 at Northwestern
Sept. 12 at UNLV
Sept. 20 at Arkansas
Oct. 4 Kent State
Oct. 11 Central Michigan
Oct. 18 Miami (Ohio)
Oct. 25 at Eastern Michigan
Nov. 5 at Ball State
Nov. 11 Toledo
Nov. 18 at Ohio
Nov. 28 at Western Michigan

OHIO (7-6, 4-4)
Athens, OH
Aug. 30 at Kent State
Sept. 6 at Kentucky
Sept. 13 at Marshall
Sept. 20 Idaho
Sept. 27 Eastern Illinois
Oct. 4 at Central Michigan
Oct. 11 Bowling Green
Oct. 18 Akron
Oct. 25 at Western Michigan
Nov. 5 Buffalo
Nov. 18 Northern Illinois
Nov. 25 at Miami (Ohio)

TOLEDO (7-5, 5-3)
Toledo, OH
Aug. 30 New Hampshire
Sept. 6 Missouri
Sept. 12 at Cincinnati
Sept. 20 Ball State
Sept. 27 Central Michigan
Oct. 4 at Western Michigan
Oct. 11 at Iowa State
Oct. 25 Massachusetts
Nov. 4 at Kent State
Nov. 11 at Northern Illinois
Nov. 19 Bowling Green
Nov. 28 at Eastern Michigan

WESTERN MICHIGAN (1-11, 1-7)
Kalamazoo, MI
Aug. 30 at Purdue
Sept. 13 at Idaho
Sept. 20 Murray State
Sept. 27 at Virginia Tech
Oct. 4 Toledo
Oct. 11 at Ball State
Oct. 18 at Bowling Green
Oct. 25 Ohio
Nov. 1 at Miami (Ohio)
Nov. 15 Eastern Michigan
Nov. 22 at Central Michigan
Nov. 28 Northern Illinois

MOUNTAIN WEST

AIR FORCE (2-10, 0-8)
Colorado Springs, CO
Aug. 30 Nicholls State
Sept. 6 at Wyoming
Sept. 13 at Georgia State
Sept. 27 Boise State
Oct. 4 Navy
Oct. 11 at Utah State
Oct. 18 New Mexico
Nov. 1 at Army
Nov. 8 at UNLV
Nov. 15 Nevada
Nov. 21 at San Diego State
Nov. 28 Colorado State

BOISE STATE (8-5, 6-2)
Boise, ID
Aug. 28 vs. Ole Miss #
Sept. 6 Colorado State
Sept. 13 at Connecticut
Sept. 20 UL Lafayette
Sept. 27 at Air Force
Oct. 4 at Nevada
Oct. 17 Fresno State
Oct. 24 BYU
Nov. 8 at New Mexico
Nov. 15 San Diego State
Nov. 22 at Wyoming
Nov. 29 Utah State
#Atlanta, GA

COLORADO STATE (8-6, 5-3)
Fort Collins, CO
Aug. 29 vs. Colorado #
Sept. 6 at Boise State
Sept. 13 UC Davis
Sept. 27 at Boston College
Oct. 4 Tulsa
Oct. 11 at Nevada
Oct. 18 Utah State
Oct. 25 Wyoming
Nov. 1 at San Jose State
Nov. 8 Hawaii
Nov. 22 New Mexico
Nov. 28 at Air Force
#Denver, CO

FRESNO STATE (11-2, 7-1)
Fresno, CA
Aug. 30 at USC
Sept. 6 at Utah
Sept. 13 Nebraska
Sept. 20 Southern Utah
Sept. 26 at New Mexico
Oct. 3 San Diego State
Oct. 11 at UNLV
Oct. 17 at Boise State
Nov. 1 Wyoming
Nov. 8 San Jose State
Nov. 22 at Nevada
Nov. 29 Hawaii

HAWAII (1-11, 0-8)
Honolulu, HI
Aug. 30 Washington
Sept. 6 Oregon State
Sept. 13 Northern Iowa
Sept. 20 at Colorado
Oct. 4 at Rice
Oct. 11 Wyoming
Oct. 18 at San Diego State
Oct. 25 Nevada
Nov. 1 Utah State
Nov. 8 at Colorado State
Nov. 15 at San Jose State
Nov. 22 UNLV
Nov. 29 at Fresno State

NEVADA (4-8, 3-5)
Reno, NV
Aug. 30 Southern Utah
Sept. 5 Washington State
Sept. 13 at Arizona
Sept. 27 at San Jose State
Oct. 4 Boise State
Oct. 11 Colorado State
Oct. 18 at BYU
Oct. 25 at Hawaii
Nov. 1 San Diego State
Nov. 15 at Air Force
Nov. 22 Fresno State
Nov. 29 at UNLV

NEW MEXICO (3-9, 1-7)
Albuquerque, NM
Aug. 30 UTEP
Sept. 6 Arizona State
Sept. 20 at New Mexico State
Sept. 26 Fresno State
Oct. 4 at UTSA
Oct. 10 San Diego State
Oct. 18 at Air Force
Nov. 1 at UNLV
Nov. 8 Boise State
Nov. 15 at Utah State
Nov. 22 at Colorado State
Nov. 29 Wyoming

SAN DIEGO STATE (8-5, 6-2)
San Diego, CA
Aug. 30 Northern Arizona
Sept. 6 at North Carolina
Sept. 20 at Oregon State
Sept. 27 UNLV
Oct. 3 at Fresno State
Oct. 10 at New Mexico
Oct. 18 Hawaii
Nov. 1 at Nevada
Nov. 8 Idaho
Nov. 15 at Boise State
Nov. 21 Air Force
Nov. 29 San Jose State

SAN JOSE STATE (6-6, 5-3)
San Jose, CA
Aug. 28 North Dakota
Sept. 6 at Auburn
Sept. 20 at Minnesota
Sept. 27 Nevada
Oct. 4 UNLV
Oct. 18 at Wyoming
Oct. 25 at Navy
Nov. 1 Colorado State
Nov. 8 at Fresno State
Nov. 15 Hawaii
Nov. 21 at Utah State
Nov. 29 at San Diego State

UNLV (7-6, 5-3)
Las Vegas, NV
Aug. 29 at Arizona
Sept. 6 Northern Colorado
Sept. 12 Northern Illinois
Sept. 27 at San Diego State
Oct. 4 at San Jose State
Oct. 11 Fresno State
Oct. 25 at Utah State
Nov. 1 New Mexico
Nov. 8 Air Force
Nov. 15 at BYU
Nov. 22 at Hawaii
Nov. 29 Nevada

UTAH STATE (9-5, 7-1)
Logan, UT
Aug. 31 at Tennessee
Sept. 6 Idaho State
Sept. 13 Wake Forest
Sept. 20 at Arkansas State
Oct. 3 at BYU
Oct. 11 Air Force
Oct. 18 at Colorado State
Oct. 25 UNLV
Nov. 1 at Hawaii
Nov. 7 at Wyoming
Nov. 15 New Mexico
Nov. 21 San Jose State
Nov. 29 at Boise State

WYOMING (5-7, 3-5)
Laramie, WY
Aug. 30 Montana
Sept. 6 Air Force
Sept. 13 at Oregon
Sept. 20 Florida Atlantic
Sept. 27 at Michigan State
Oct. 11 at Hawaii
Oct. 18 San Jose State
Oct. 25 at Colorado State
Nov. 1 at Fresno State
Nov. 7 Utah State
Nov. 22 Boise State
Nov. 29 at New Mexico

PAC-12

ARIZONA (8-5, 4-5)
Tucson, AZ
Aug. 29 UNLV
Sept. 4 at UTSA
Sept. 13 Nevada
Sept. 20 California
Oct. 2 at Oregon
Oct. 11 USC
Oct. 25 at Washington State
Nov. 1 at UCLA
Nov. 8 Colorado
Nov. 15 Washington
Nov. 22 at Utah
Nov. 28 Arizona State

ARIZONA STATE (10-4, 8-1)
Tempe, AZ
Aug. 28 Weber State
Sept. 6 at New Mexico
Sept. 13 at Colorado
Sept. 25 UCLA
Oct. 4 at USC
Oct. 18 Stanford
Oct. 25 at Washington
Nov. 1 Utah
Nov. 8 Notre Dame
Nov. 15 at Oregon State
Nov. 22 Washington State
Nov. 28 at Arizona

CALIFORNIA (1-11, 0-9)
Berkeley, CA
Aug. 30 at Northwestern
Sept. 6 Sacramento State
Sept. 20 at Arizona
Sept. 27 Colorado
Oct. 4 at Washington State
Oct. 11 Washington
Oct. 18 UCLA
Oct. 24 vs. Oregon #
Nov. 1 at Oregon State
Nov. 13 at USC
Nov. 22 Stanford
Nov. 29 BYU
#Santa Clara, CA

COLORADO (4-8, 1-8)
Boulder, CO
Aug. 29 vs. Colorado State #
Sept. 6 at Massachusetts
Sept. 13 Arizona State
Sept. 20 Hawaii
Sept. 27 at California
Oct. 4 Oregon State
Oct. 18 at USC
Oct. 25 UCLA
Nov. 1 Washington
Nov. 8 at Arizona
Nov. 22 at Oregon
Nov. 29 Utah
#Denver, CO

OREGON (11-2, 7-2)
Eugene, OR
Aug. 30 South Dakota
Sept. 6 Michigan State
Sept. 13 Wyoming
Sept. 20 at Washington State
Oct. 2 Arizona
Oct. 11 at UCLA
Oct. 18 Washington
Oct. 24 vs. California #
Nov. 1 Stanford
Nov. 8 at Utah
Nov. 22 Colorado
Nov. 29 at Oregon State
#Santa Clara, CA

OREGON STATE (7-6, 4-5)
Corvallis, OR
Aug. 30 Portland State
Sept. 6 at Hawaii
Sept. 20 San Diego State
Sept. 27 at USC
Oct. 4 at Colorado
Oct. 16 Utah
Oct. 25 at Stanford
Nov. 1 California
Nov. 8 Washington State
Nov. 15 Arizona State
Nov. 22 at Washington
Nov. 29 Oregon

STANFORD (11-3, 7-2)
Stanford, CA
Aug. 30 UC Davis
Sept. 6 USC
Sept. 13 Army
Sept. 27 at Washington
Oct. 4 at Notre Dame
Oct. 10 Washington State
Oct. 18 at Arizona State
Oct. 25 Oregon State
Nov. 1 at Oregon
Nov. 15 Utah
Nov. 22 at California
Nov. 28 at UCLA

UCLA (10-3, 7-3)
Los Angeles, CA
Aug. 30 at Virginia
Sept. 6 Memphis
Sept. 13 vs. Texas #
Sept. 25 at Arizona State
Oct. 4 Utah
Oct. 11 Oregon
Oct. 18 at California
Oct. 25 at Colorado
Nov. 1 Arizona
Nov. 8 at Washington
Nov. 22 USC
Nov. 28 Stanford
#Arlington, TX

USC (10-4, 6-3)
Los Angeles, CA
Aug. 30 Fresno State
Sept. 6 at Stanford
Sept. 13 at Boston College
Sept. 27 Oregon State
Oct. 4 Arizona State
Oct. 11 at Arizona
Oct. 18 Colorado
Oct. 25 at Utah
Nov. 1 at Washington State
Nov. 13 California
Nov. 22 at UCLA
Nov. 29 Notre Dame

UTAH (5-7, 2-7)
Salt Lake City, UT
Aug. 28 Idaho State
Sept. 6 Fresno State
Sept. 20 at Michigan
Sept. 27 Washington State
Oct. 4 at UCLA
Oct. 16 at Oregon State
Oct. 25 USC
Nov. 1 at Arizona State
Nov. 8 Oregon
Nov. 15 at Stanford
Nov. 22 Arizona
Nov. 29 at Colorado

WASHINGTON (9-4, 5-4)
Seattle, WA
Aug. 30 at Hawaii
Sept. 6 Eastern Washington
Sept. 13 Illinois
Sept. 20 Georgia State
Sept. 27 Stanford
Oct. 11 at California
Oct. 18 at Oregon
Oct. 25 Arizona State
Nov. 1 at Colorado
Nov. 8 UCLA
Nov. 15 at Arizona
Nov. 22 Oregon State
Nov. 29 at Washington State

WASHINGTON STATE (6-7, 4-5)
Pullman, WA
Aug. 28 vs. Rutgers #
Sept. 5 at Nevada
Sept. 13 Portland State
Sept. 20 Oregon
Sept. 27 at Utah
Oct. 4 California
Oct. 10 at Stanford
Oct. 25 Arizona
Nov. 1 USC
Nov. 8 at Oregon State
Nov. 22 at Arizona State
Nov. 29 Washington
#Seattle, WA

SEC

ALABAMA (11-2, 7-1)
Tuscaloosa, AL
Aug. 30 vs. West Virginia #
Sept. 6 Florida Atlantic
Sept. 13 Southern Miss
Sept. 20 Florida
Oct. 4 at Ole Miss
Oct. 11 at Arkansas
Oct. 18 Texas A&M
Oct. 25 at Tennessee
Nov. 8 at LSU
Nov. 15 Mississippi State
Nov. 22 Western Carolina
Nov. 29 Auburn
#Atlanta, GA

ARKANSAS (3-9, 0-8)
Fayetteville, AR
Aug. 30 at Auburn
Sept. 6 Nicholls State
Sept. 13 at Texas Tech
Sept. 20 Northern Illinois
Sept. 27 vs. Texas A&M #
Oct. 11 Alabama
Oct. 18 vs. Georgia %
Oct. 25 UAB
Nov. 1 at Mississippi State
Nov. 15 LSU
Nov. 22 Ole Miss
Nov. 29 at Missouri
#Arlington, TX %Little Rock, AR

AUBURN (12-2, 7-1)
Auburn, AL
Aug. 30 Arkansas
Sept. 6 San Jose State
Sept. 18 at Kansas State
Sept. 27 Louisiana Tech
Oct. 4 LSU
Oct. 11 at Mississippi State
Oct. 25 South Carolina
Nov. 1 at Ole Miss
Nov. 8 Texas A&M
Nov. 15 at Georgia
Nov. 22 Samford
Nov. 29 at Alabama

FLORIDA (4-8, 3-5)
Gainesville, FL
Aug. 30 Idaho
Sept. 6 Eastern Michigan
Sept. 13 Kentucky
Sept. 20 at Alabama
Oct. 4 at Tennessee
Oct. 11 LSU
Oct. 18 Missouri
Nov. 1 vs. Georgia #
Nov. 8 at Vanderbilt
Nov. 15 South Carolina
Nov. 22 Eastern Kentucky
Nov. 29 at Florida State
#Jacksonville, FL

GEORGIA (8-5, 5-3)
Athens, GA
Aug. 30 Clemson
Sept. 13 at South Carolina
Sept. 20 Troy
Sept. 27 Tennessee
Oct. 4 Vanderbilt
Oct. 11 at Missouri
Oct. 18 vs. Arkansas #
Nov. 1 vs. Florida %
Nov. 8 at Kentucky
Nov. 15 Auburn
Nov. 22 Charleston Southern
Nov. 29 Georgia Tech
#Little Rock, AR %Jacksonville, FL

KENTUCKY (2-10, 0-8)
Lexington, KY
Aug. 30 Tennessee-Martin
Sept. 6 Ohio
Sept. 13 at Florida
Sept. 27 Vanderbilt
Oct. 4 South Carolina
Oct. 11 UL Monroe
Oct. 18 at LSU
Oct. 25 Mississippi State
Nov. 1 at Missouri
Nov. 8 Georgia
Nov. 15 at Tennessee
Nov. 29 at Louisville

LSU (10-3, 5-3)
Baton Rouge, LA
Aug. 30 vs. Wisconsin #
Sept. 6 Sam Houston State
Sept. 13 UL Monroe
Sept. 20 Mississippi State
Sept. 27 New Mexico State
Oct. 4 at Auburn
Oct. 11 at Florida
Oct. 18 Kentucky
Oct. 25 Ole Miss
Nov. 8 Alabama
Nov. 15 at Arkansas
Nov. 27 at Texas A&M
#Houston, TX

MISSISSIPPI STATE (7-6, 3-5)
Starkville, MS
Aug. 30 Southern Miss
Sept. 6 UAB
Sept. 13 at South Alabama
Sept. 20 at LSU
Oct. 4 Texas A&M
Oct. 11 Auburn
Oct. 25 at Kentucky
Nov. 1 Arkansas
Nov. 8 Tennessee-Martin
Nov. 15 at Alabama
Nov. 22 Vanderbilt
Nov. 29 at Ole Miss

MISSOURI (12-2, 7-1)
Columbia, MO
Aug. 30 South Dakota State
Sept. 6 at Toledo
Sept. 13 UCF
Sept. 20 Indiana
Sept. 27 at South Carolina
Oct. 11 Georgia
Oct. 18 at Florida
Oct. 25 Vanderbilt
Nov. 1 Kentucky
Nov. 15 at Texas A&M
Nov. 22 at Tennessee
Nov. 29 Arkansas

OLE MISS (8-5, 3-5)
Oxford, MS
Aug. 28 vs. Boise State #
Sept. 6 at Vanderbilt
Sept. 13 UL Lafayette
Sept. 27 Memphis
Oct. 4 Alabama
Oct. 11 at Texas A&M
Oct. 18 Tennessee
Oct. 25 at LSU
Nov. 1 Auburn
Nov. 8 Presbyterian
Nov. 22 at Arkansas
Nov. 29 Mississippi State
#Atlanta, GA

SOUTH CAROLINA (11-2, 6-2)
Columbia, SC
Aug. 28 Texas A&M
Sept. 6 East Carolina
Sept. 13 Georgia
Sept. 20 at Vanderbilt
Sept. 27 Missouri
Oct. 4 at Kentucky
Oct. 18 Furman
Oct. 25 at Auburn
Nov. 1 Tennessee
Nov. 15 at Florida
Nov. 22 South Alabama
Nov. 29 at Clemson

TENNESSEE (5-7, 2-6)
Knoxville, TN
Aug. 31 Utah State
Sept. 6 Arkansas State
Sept. 13 at Oklahoma
Sept. 27 at Georgia
Oct. 4 Florida
Oct. 11 Chattanooga
Oct. 18 at Ole Miss
Oct. 25 Alabama
Nov. 1 at South Carolina
Nov. 15 Kentucky
Nov. 22 Missouri
Nov. 29 at Vanderbilt

TEXAS A&M (9-4, 4-4)
College Station, TX
Aug. 28 at South Carolina
Sept. 6 Lamar
Sept. 13 Rice
Sept. 20 at SMU
Sept. 27 vs. Arkansas #
Oct. 4 at Mississippi State
Oct. 11 Ole Miss
Oct. 18 at Alabama
Nov. 1 UL Monroe
Nov. 8 at Auburn
Nov. 15 Missouri
Nov. 27 LSU
#Arlington, TX

VANDERBILT (9-4, 4-4)
Nashville, TN
Aug. 28 Temple
Sept. 6 Ole Miss
Sept. 13 Massachusetts
Sept. 20 South Carolina
Sept. 27 at Kentucky
Oct. 4 at Georgia
Oct. 11 Charleston Southern
Oct. 25 at Missouri
Nov. 1 Old Dominion
Nov. 8 Florida
Nov. 22 at Mississippi State
Nov. 29 Tennessee

SUN BELT

APPALACHIAN STATE (4-8, 4-4 Southern)
Boone, NC
Aug. 30 at Michigan
Sept. 6 Campbell
Sept. 20 at Southern Miss
Sept. 25 at Georgia Southern
Oct. 4 South Alabama
Oct. 11 Liberty
Oct. 18 at Troy
Nov. 1 Georgia State
Nov. 8 UL Monroe
Nov. 15 at Arkansas State
Nov. 22 at UL Lafayette
Nov. 29 Idaho

ARKANSAS STATE (8-5, 5-2)
Jonesboro, AR
Aug. 30 Montana State
Sept. 6 at Tennessee
Sept. 13 at Miami
Sept. 20 Utah State
Oct. 4 UL Monroe
Oct. 11 at Georgia State
Oct. 21 at UL Lafayette
Nov. 1 at Idaho
Nov. 8 South Alabama
Nov. 15 Appalachian State
Nov. 20 at Texas State
Nov. 29 New Mexico State

GEORGIA SOUTHERN (7-4, 4-4 Southern)
Statesboro, GA
Aug. 30 at NC State
Sept. 6 Savannah State
Sept. 13 at Georgia Tech
Sept. 20 at South Alabama
Sept. 25 Appalachian State
Oct. 4 at New Mexico State
Oct. 11 Idaho
Oct. 25 at Georgia State
Oct. 30 Troy
Nov. 8 at Texas State
Nov. 15 at Navy
Nov. 29 UL Monroe

GEORGIA STATE (0-12, 0-7)
Atlanta, GA
Aug. 27 Abilene Christian
Sept. 6 New Mexico State
Sept. 13 Air Force
Sept. 20 at Washington
Oct. 4 at UL Lafayette
Oct. 11 Arkansas State
Oct. 18 at South Alabama
Oct. 25 Georgia Southern
Nov. 1 at Appalachian State
Nov. 8 at Troy
Nov. 22 at Clemson
Nov. 29 Texas State

IDAHO (1-11)
Moscow, ID
Aug. 30 at Florida
Sept. 6 at UL Monroe
Sept. 13 Western Michigan
Sept. 20 at Ohio
Sept. 27 South Alabama
Oct. 4 at Texas State
Oct. 11 at Georgia Southern
Oct. 18 New Mexico State
Nov. 1 Arkansas State
Nov. 8 at San Diego State
Nov. 15 Troy
Nov. 29 at Appalachian State

UL LAFAYETTE (9-4, 5-2)
Lafayette, LA
Aug. 30 Southern
Sept. 6 Louisiana Tech
Sept. 13 at Ole Miss
Sept. 20 at Boise State
Oct. 4 Georgia State
Oct. 14 at Texas State
Oct. 21 Arkansas State
Nov. 1 South Alabama
Nov. 8 at New Mexico State
Nov. 15 at UL Monroe
Nov. 22 Appalachian State
Nov. 29 at Troy

UL MONROE (6-6, 4-3)
Monroe, LA
Aug. 28 Wake Forest
Sept. 6 Idaho
Sept. 13 at LSU
Sept. 27 Troy
Oct. 4 at Arkansas State
Oct. 11 at Kentucky
Oct. 25 Texas State
Nov. 1 at Texas A&M
Nov. 8 at Appalachian State
Nov. 15 UL Lafayette
Nov. 22 at New Mexico State
Nov. 29 at Georgia Southern

NEW MEXICO STATE (2-10)
Las Cruces, NM
Aug. 28 Cal Poly
Sept. 6 at Georgia State
Sept. 13 at UTEP
Sept. 20 New Mexico
Sept. 27 at LSU
Oct. 4 Georgia Southern
Oct. 11 at Troy
Oct. 18 at Idaho
Nov. 1 Texas State
Nov. 8 UL Lafayette
Nov. 22 UL Monroe
Nov. 29 at Arkansas State

SOUTH ALABAMA (6-6, 4-3)
Mobile, AL
Sept. 6 at Kent State
Sept. 13 Mississippi State
Sept. 20 Georgia Southern
Sept. 27 at Idaho
Oct. 4 at Appalachian State
Oct. 18 Georgia State
Oct. 24 Troy
Nov. 1 at UL Lafayette
Nov. 8 at Arkansas State
Nov. 15 Texas State
Nov. 22 at South Carolina
Nov. 28 Navy

TEXAS STATE (6-6, 2-5)
San Marcos, TX
Aug. 30 Arkansas-Pine Bluff
Sept. 13 Navy
Sept. 20 at Illinois
Sept. 27 at Tulsa
Oct. 4 Idaho
Oct. 14 UL Lafayette
Oct. 25 at UL Monroe
Nov. 1 at New Mexico State
Nov. 8 Georgia Southern
Nov. 15 at South Alabama
Nov. 20 Arkansas State
Nov. 29 at Georgia State

TROY (6-6, 4-3)
Troy, AL
Aug. 30 at UAB
Sept. 6 Duke
Sept. 13 Abilene Christian
Sept. 20 at Georgia
Sept. 27 at UL Monroe
Oct. 11 New Mexico State
Oct. 18 Appalachian State
Oct. 24 at South Alabama
Oct. 30 at Georgia Southern
Nov. 8 Georgia State
Nov. 15 at Idaho
Nov. 29 UL Lafayette

INDEPENDENTS

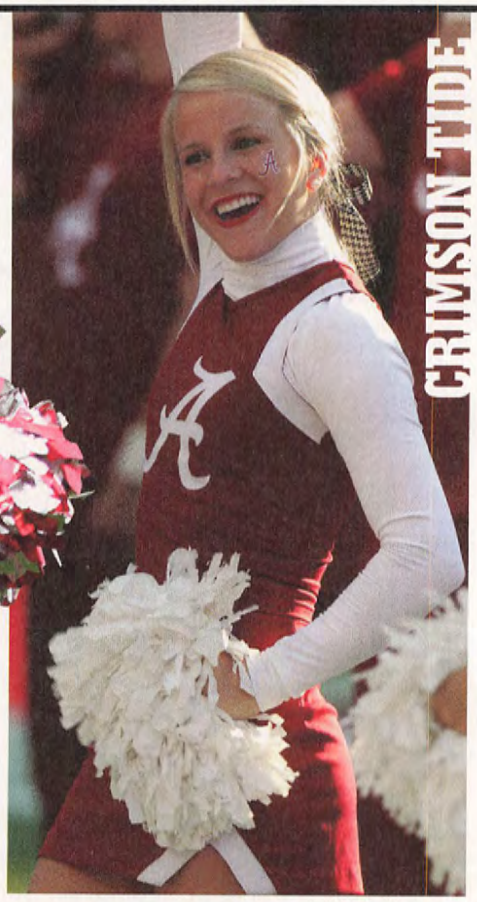
ARMY (3-9)
West Point, NY
Sept. 6 Buffalo
Sept. 13 at Stanford
Sept. 20 at Wake Forest
Sept. 27 at Yale
Oct. 4 Ball State
Oct. 11 Rice
Oct. 18 at Kent State
Nov. 1 Air Force
Nov. 8 vs. Connecticut #
Nov. 15 at Western Kentucky
Nov. 22 Fordham
Dec. 13 vs. Navy %
#Bronx, NY %Baltimore, MD

BYU (8-5)
Provo, UT
Aug. 29 at Connecticut
Sept. 6 at Texas
Sept. 11 Houston
Sept. 20 Virginia
Oct. 3 Utah State
Oct. 9 at UCF
Oct. 18 Nevada
Oct. 24 at Boise State
Nov. 1 at Middle Tennessee
Nov. 15 UNLV
Nov. 22 Savannah State
Nov. 29 at California

NAVY (9-4)
Annapolis, MD
Aug. 30 vs. Ohio State #
Sept. 6 at Temple
Sept. 13 at Texas State
Sept. 20 Rutgers
Sept. 27 Western Kentucky
Oct. 4 at Air Force
Oct. 11 VMI
Oct. 25 San Jose State
Nov. 1 vs. Notre Dame %
Nov. 15 Georgia Southern
Nov. 28 at South Alabama
Dec. 13 vs. Army #
#Baltimore, MD %Landover, MD

NOTRE DAME (9-4)
South Bend, IN
Aug. 30 Rice
Sept. 6 Michigan
Sept. 13 vs. Purdue #
Sept. 27 vs. Syracuse %
Oct. 4 Stanford
Oct. 11 North Carolina
Oct. 18 at Florida State
Nov. 1 vs. Navy $
Nov. 8 at Arizona State
Nov. 15 Northwestern
Nov. 22 Louisville
Nov. 29 at USC
#Indianapolis, IN %East Rutherford, NJ
$Landover, MD

SIDELINE SPIRT™



CRIMSON TIDE

HUSKERS

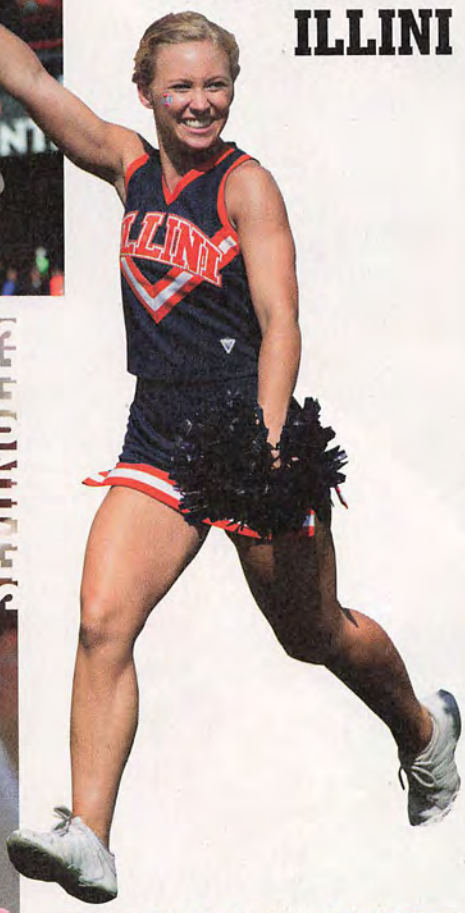
GOLDEN BEARS

Nebraska: Tim Umphrey; Alabama: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports; California: Peter Brouillet; Oklahoma: Tom Lynn; Virginia: Gene Halverson; Illinois: Peter Brouillet; FSU: Mark Langello; Texas: Layne Murdoch

SOONERS

CAVALIERS

SEMINOLES



FIGHTING ILLINI

LONGHORNS

USC: Peter Brouillet; Georgia: Tim Clark; Michigan State: Mike McGinnis; Oregon, Tennessee: Steve Dipaola; Washington: Athlon Sports; Michigan: Tom Lynn

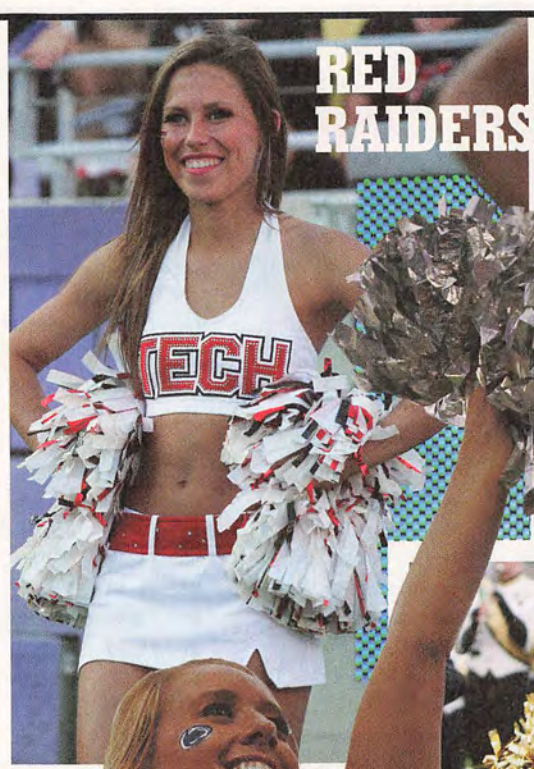
WOLVERINES

VOLS

HUSKIES

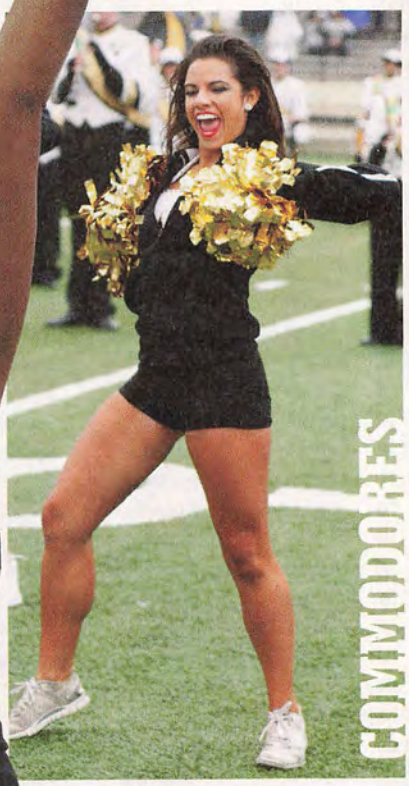
UCLA: Tim Umphrey; NC State: Grant Halverson; Missouri, Vanderbilt: Athlon Sports; Texas Tech: Layne Murdoch; Penn State: Bruce Schwartzman; Oregon State: Craig Mitchelldyer; Minnesota: Margaret Bowles

SIDELINE SPIRIT

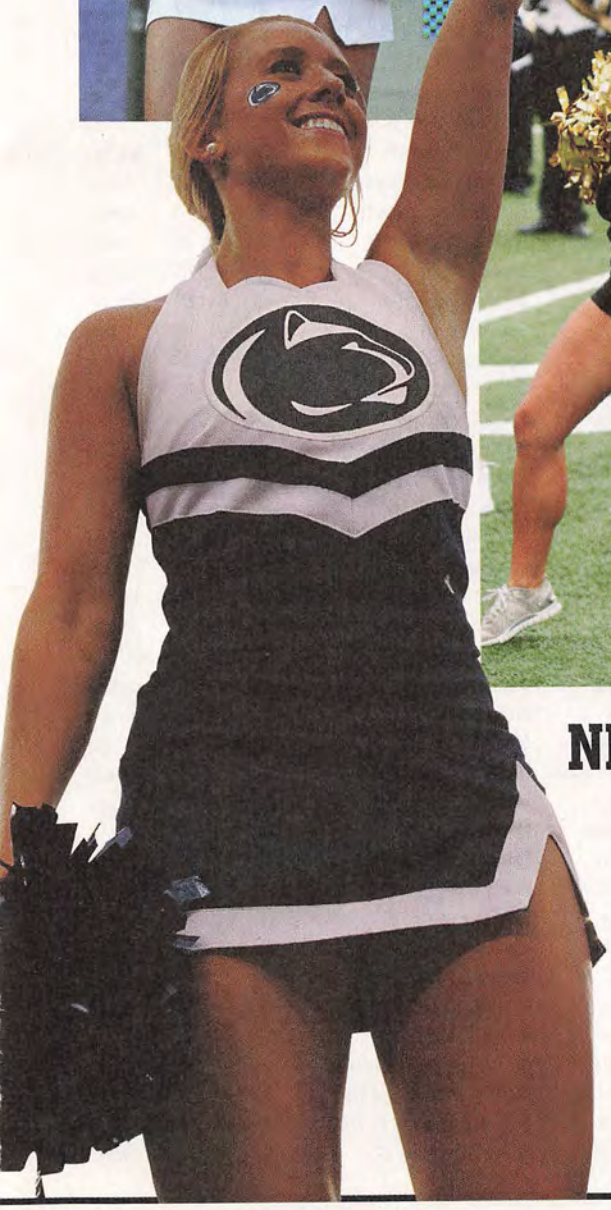


RED RAIDERS

BEAVERS



COMMODORES



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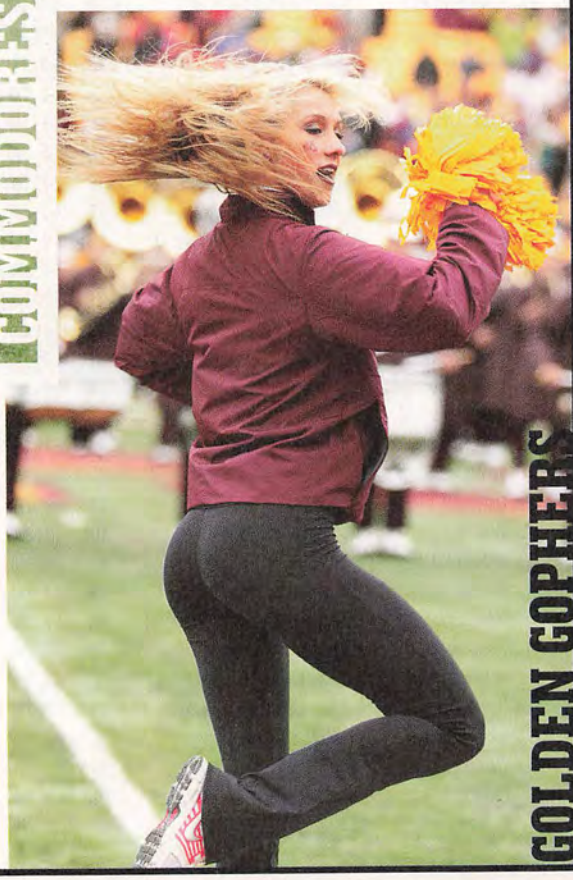

GOLDEN GOPHERS

RECRUITING REPORT TOP 100

RANKINGS PROVIDED BY 247 COMPOSITE

presented by Wrangler
Real. Comfortable. Jeans.

	Player	High School (Hometown)	Pos	Ht	Wt	School
1.	Leonard Fournette	St. Augustine (New Orleans, LA)	RB	6-1	226	LSU
2.	Myles Garrett	James Martin (Arlington, TX)	DL	6-4	240	Texas A&M
3.	Jabrill Peppers	Paramus Catholic (Paramus, NJ)	ATH	6-1	205	Michigan
4.	Cameron Robinson	West Monroe (Monroe, LA)	OL	6-7	335	Alabama
5.	Da'Shawn Hand	Woodbridge (Woodbridge, VA)	DL	6-4	265	Alabama
6.	Quin Blanding	Bayside (Virginia Beach, VA)	DB	6-2	200	Virginia
7.	Adoree' Jackson	Junipero Serra (Gardena, CA)	DB	5-10	182	USC
8.	Speedy Noil	Edna Karr (New Orleans, LA)	WR	5-11	176	Texas A&M
9.	Tony Brown	Ozen (Beaumont, TX)	DB	6-0	188	Alabama
10.	Kyle Allen	Desert Mountain (Scottsdale, AZ)	QB	6-3	200	Texas A&M
11.	Andrew Brown	Oscar Smith (Chesapeake, VA)	DL	6-4	282	Virginia
12.	Marlon Humphrey	Hoover (Birmingham, AL)	DB	6-1	175	Alabama
13.	Dalvin Cook	Miami Central (Miami, FL)	RB	5-11	190	Florida State
14.	Jalen Tabor	Friendship Academy (Washington, DC)	DB	6-1	182	Florida
15.	Rashaan Evans	Auburn (Auburn, AL)	LB	6-3	220	Alabama
16.	Bo Scarbrough	IMG Academy (Bradenton, FL)	ATH	6-2	225	Alabama
17.	Malachi Dupre	John Curtis (New Orleans, LA)	WR	6-2	187	LSU
18.	Lorenzo Carter	Norcross (Norcross, GA)	DL	6-5	232	Georgia
19.	Sony Michel	American Heritage (Fort Lauderdale, FL)	RB	5-11	205	Georgia
20.	JuJu Smith	Long Beach Poly (Long Beach, CA)	ATH	6-1	200	USC
21.	Joe Mixon	Freedom (Oakley, CA)	RB	6-2	195	Oklahoma
22.	Raekwon McMillan	Liberty County (Hinesville, GA)	LB	6-2	242	Ohio State
23.	Roc Thomas	Oxford (Oxford, AL)	RB	5-11	196	Auburn
24.	Ermon Lane	Homestead (Homestead, FL)	WR	6-3	193	Florida State
25.	Solomon Thomas	Coppell (Coppell, TX)	DL	6-2	258	Stanford
26.	Chad Thomas	Booker T. Washington (Miami, FL)	DL	6-5	240	Miami
27.	Damian Prince	Bishop McNamara (District Heights, MD)	OL	6-5	295	Maryland
28.	Clifton Garrett	Plainfield South (Plainfield, IL)	LB	6-2	228	LSU
29.	Tre' Williams	St. Paul's Episcopal (Mobile, AL)	LB	6-3	237	Auburn
30.	KD Cannon	Mount Pleasant (Mount Pleasant, TX)	WR	6-0	162	Baylor
31.	Jamal Adams	Hebron (Carrollton, TX)	DB	6-0	199	LSU
32.	Malik McDowell	Southfield (Southfield, MI)	DL	6-7	290	Michigan State
33.	Nick Chubb	Cedartown (Cedartown, GA)	RB	5-11	216	Georgia
34.	Gerald Willis	Edna Karr (New Orleans, LA)	DL	6-3	275	Florida
35.	Damon Webb	Cass Technical (Detroit, MI)	DB	5-11	180	Ohio State
36.	Josh Malone	Station Camp (Gallatin, TN)	WR	6-2	191	Tennessee
37.	Royce Freeman	Imperial (Imperial, CA)	RB	5-11	215	Oregon
38.	Damien Mama	St. John Bosco (Bellflower, CA)	OL	6-4	370	USC
39.	Christian Miller	Spring Valley (Columbia, SC)	LB	6-4	222	Alabama
40.	Jalen Hurd	Beech (Hendersonville, TN)	ATH	6-3	230	Tennessee
41.	Deshaun Watson	Gainesville (Gainesville, GA)	QB	6-3	200	Clemson
42.	Ed Paris Jr.	Mansfield Timberview (Arlington, TX)	DB	6-1	190	LSU
43.	Travis Rudolph	Cardinal Newman (W. Palm Beach, FL)	WR	6-1	185	Florida State
44.	Joseph Yearby	Miami Central (Miami, FL)	RB	5-9	190	Miami
45.	KC McDermott	Palm Beach Central (W. Palm Beach, FL)	OL	6-6	300	Miami
46.	Elijah Hood	Charlotte Catholic (Charlotte, NC)	RB	5-11	222	North Carolina
47.	Roderick Taylor	Callaway (Jackson, MS)	OL	6-4	305	Ole Miss
48.	Will Grier	Davidson Day (Davidson, NC)	QB	6-3	187	Florida
49.	Davion Hall	Liberty-Eylau (Texarkana, TX)	ATH	6-3	186	Baylor
50.	Laurence Jones	Neville (Monroe, LA)	DB	6-2	220	Alabama
51.	Keller Chryst	Palo Alto (Palo Alto, CA)	QB	6-4	220	Stanford
52.	Marshon Lattimore	Glenville (Cleveland, OH)	DB	6-0	175	Ohio State
53.	Nyles Morgan	Crete-Monee (Crete, IL)	LB	6-1	225	Notre Dame
54.	Dante Booker	St. Vincent-St. Mary (Akron, OH)	LB	6-3	212	Ohio State
55.	Budda Baker	Bellevue (Bellevue, WA)	ATH	5-9	174	Washington
56.	Michiah Quick	Central East (Fresno, CA)	ATH	6-0	170	Oklahoma
57.	Nick Harvey	Travis (Richmond, TX)	DB	5-9	175	Texas A&M
58.	Jamarco Jones	De La Salle Institute (Chicago, IL)	OL	6-5	290	Ohio State
59.	Curtis Samuel	Erasmus Hall (Brooklyn, NY)	ATH	6-0	185	Ohio State
60.	Jeff Jones	Washburn (Minneapolis, MN)	RB	5-11	196	Minnesota
61.	Todd Kelly	Webb School (Knoxville, TN)	DB	6-0	188	Tennessee
62.	Quenton Nelson	Red Bank Catholic (Red Bank, NJ)	OL	6-5	295	Notre Dame
63.	Braden Smith	Olathe South (Olathe, KS)	OL	6-6	290	Auburn
64.	Derick Roberson	William J. Brennan (San Antonio, TX)	DL	6-4	235	Texas
65.	Travonte Valentine	Champagnat Catholic (Hialeah, FL)	DL	6-3	338	LSU
66.	Erick Smith	Glenville (Cleveland, OH)	DB	6-1	185	Ohio State
67.	Drake Harris	Grand Rapids Christian (Grand Rapids, MI)	WR	6-4	180	Michigan
68.	Artavis Scott	East Lake (Tarpon Springs, FL)	WR	5-10	175	Clemson
69.	Malkom Parrish	Brooks County (Quitman, GA)	DB	5-9	186	Georgia
70.	Ronnie Clark	Calera (Calera, AL)	LB	6-2	215	Alabama
71.	Jacob Pugh	Godby (Tallahassee, FL)	LB	6-4	221	Florida State
72.	Jerrod Heard	Guyer (Denton, TX)	QB	6-2	190	Texas
73.	Kain Daub	Sandalwood (Jacksonville, FL)	LB	6-3	234	Florida State
74.	Ross Pierschbacher	Cedar Falls (Cedar Falls, IA)	OL	6-4	290	Alabama
75.	Brandon Harris	Parkway (Bossier City, LA)	QB	6-2	193	LSU
76.	Johnnie Dixon	Dwyer (Palm Beach Gardens, FL)	WR	5-10	187	Ohio State
77.	Thomas Holley	Abraham Lincoln (Brooklyn, NY)	DL	6-4	285	Florida
78.	Trey Quinn	Barbe (Lake Charles, LA)	WR	6-1	200	LSU
79.	David Cornwell	Norman North (Norman, OK)	QB	6-5	241	Alabama
80.	Jalyn Holmes	Lake Taylor (Norfolk, VA)	DL	6-5	225	Ohio State
81.	Bijhon Jackson	El Dorado (El Dorado, AR)	DL	6-1	334	Arkansas
82.	Casey Tucker	Hamilton (Chandler, AZ)	OL	6-6	270	Stanford
83.	Allen Lazard	Urbandale (Urbandale, IA)	WR	6-4	207	Iowa State
84.	Cameron Sims	Ouachita Parish (Monroe, LA)	WR	6-4	199	Alabama
85.	Josh Frazier	Har-Ber (Springdale, AR)	DL	6-3	335	Alabama
86.	Viane Talamaivao	Centennial (Corona, CA)	OL	6-3	310	USC
87.	Dylan Sumner-Gardner	West Mesquite (Mesquite, TX)	DB	6-1	193	Boise State
88.	Arrion Springs	Roosevelt (San Antonio, TX)	DB	5-11	192	Oregon
89.	Frank Iheanacho	Westside (Houston, TX)	WR	6-6	220	Texas A&M
90.	Brian Wallace	Christian Brothers (Saint Louis, MO)	OL	6-6	305	Arkansas
91.	Christian McCaffrey	Valor Christian (Littleton, CO)	RB	6-0	195	Stanford
92.	Zach Whitley	North Shore (Houston, TX)	LB	6-2	223	UCLA
93.	Trevor Darling	Miami Central (Miami, FL)	OL	6-4	327	Miami
94.	Justin Brent	Speedway (Indianapolis, IN)	WR	6-3	190	Notre Dame
95.	Dillon Bates	Ponte Vedra (Ponte Vedra Beach, FL)	LB	6-3	220	Tennessee
96.	C.J. Hampton	Meridian (Meridian, MS)	DB	6-1	195	Ole Miss
97.	Demetrius Knox	All Saints Episcopal (Fort Worth, TX)	OL	6-4	294	Ohio State
98.	Garrett Brumfield	University Lab (Baton Rouge, LA)	OL	6-3	272	LSU
99.	Derrick Nnadi	Ocean Lakes (Virginia Beach, VA)	DL	6-1	305	Florida State
100.	Dalton Schultz	Bingham (South Jordan, UT)	TE	6-5	215	Stanford

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TOP 50 RECRUITING JUCO TRANSFERS CLASSES

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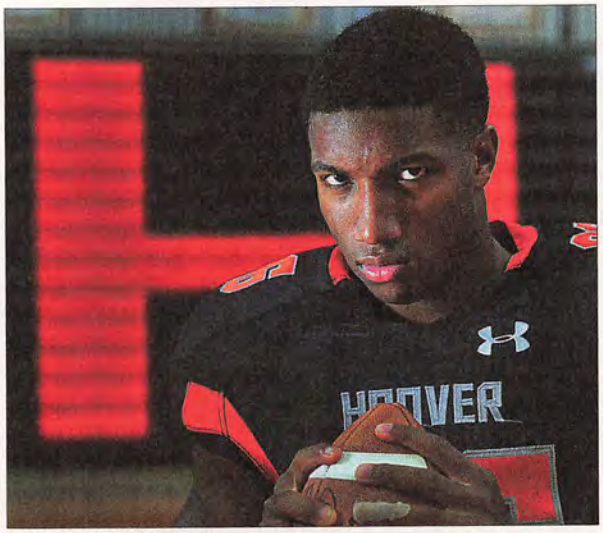
JUCO TRANSFERS

	Player	Junior College	Pos	Ht	Wt	School
1.	D'haquille Williams	Mississippi Gulf Coast CC	WR	6-3	213	Auburn
2.	Dominick Jackson	College of San Mateo	OL	6-7	304	Alabama
3.	Tyreek Hill	Garden City CC	RB	5-8	185	Oklahoma State
4.	Von Pearson	Feather River College	WR	6-1	180	Tennessee
5.	Chad Mavety	Nassau CC	OL	6-6	320	Florida State
6.	DaVonte Lambert	Georgia Military College	DL	6-3	278	Auburn
7.	Jermaine Eluemunor	Lackawanna CC	OL	6-5	300	Texas A&M
8.	Dontavius Blair	Garden City CC	OL	6-8	303	Tennessee
9.	Avery Gennesy	East Mississippi CC	OL	6-5	307	Texas A&M
10.	Terrell Clinkscales	Dodge City CC	DL	6-4	310	Kansas State
11.	Derrick Moncrief	Mississippi Gulf Coast CC	DB	6-3	226	Auburn
12.	Jordan Prestwood	Arizona Western College	OL	6-6	310	Unsigned
13.	Jarran Reed	East Mississippi CC	DL	6-4	310	Alabama
14.	Claudeson Pelon	Mesa CC	DL	6-4	275	USC
15.	D.J. Pettway	East Mississippi CC	DL	6-3	250	Alabama
16.	Abu Lamin	Fort Scott CC	DL	6-3	300	South Carolina
17.	Tee Shepard	Holmes CC	DB	6-1	197	Ole Miss
18.	Chris Weatherd	Trinity Valley CC	LB	6-3	220	Tennessee
19.	Eric Lauderdale	Saddleback College	WR	6-2	190	Arizona State
20.	Haniteli Lousi	College of San Mateo	OL	6-5	295	Oregon
21.	Troy Garland	Allan Hancock College	DB	5-10	170	Unsigned
22.	Tui Talia	Diablo Valley College	DL	6-5	265	Oregon
23.	Shattle Fenteng	Hutchinson CC	DB	6-2	200	Georgia
24.	D'Vonta Derricott	Garden City CC	LB	6-1	233	Kansas State
25.	Christian Russell	East Mississippi CC	LB	6-0	240	Ole Miss
26.	Jihad Ward	Globe Institute of Technology	DL	6-7	286	Illinois
27.	Jabril Solomon	Hutchinson CC	WR	6-2	190	East Carolina
28.	Fahn Cooper	College of DuPage	OL	6-5	314	Ole Miss
29.	Joe Keels	Highland CC	DL	6-4	275	Nebraska
30.	Cory Johnson	ASA College	DL	6-4	300	Kentucky
31.	Akeem Judd	Georgia Military College	RB	5-11	219	Ole Miss
32.	Tim Wright	Navarro College	RB	5-9	185	Unsigned
33.	Dalvon Stuckey	Pearl River CC	DL	6-3	300	Arizona State
34.	David Hedelin	City College of San Francisco	OL	6-5	285	Purdue
35.	Tarow Barney	Northwest Mississippi CC	DL	6-1	285	Penn State
36.	Joshua Reynolds	Tyler JC	WR	6-2	185	Texas A&M
37.	Antonio Kinard	Arizona Western College	LB	6-3	220	Unsigned
38.	Larry Mazyck	Iowa Western CC	OL	6-7	340	Maryland
39.	Kareem Are	Fort Scott CC	OL	6-6	335	Florida State
40.	Nick Kurtz	Grossmont College	WR	6-6	205	Brigham Young
41.	Chevelle Buie	Fort Scott CC	RB	5-8	160	Unsigned
42.	Rodney McKenzie	De Anza College	WR	6-4	205	Unsigned
43.	Colton Kane	East Central CC	QB	6-4	215	Unsigned
44.	Jeremy Liggins	Northeast Mississippi CC	ATH	6-3	270	Ole Miss
45.	Kweishi Brown	Grossmont College	CB	6-1	185	Arizona State
46.	Antonio Smothers	Scottsdale CC	LB	6-1	230	Arizona
47.	Calvin Heurtelou	Scottsdale CC	DL	6-3	304	Miami
48.	Tyrin Stone-Davis	Los Angeles Pierce College	WR	6-3	195	Illinois
49.	Blake Whiteley	Arizona Western College	TE	6-5	240	Texas
50.	Lance McDowdell	Nassau CC	DL	6-5	302	UCF



MARLON HUMPHREY, DB, ALABAMA

TOP 50 CLASSES

1. ALABAMA
2. LSU
3. OHIO STATE
4. FLORIDA STATE
5. TEXAS A&M
6. AUBURN
7. TENNESSEE
8. GEORGIA
9. FLORIDA
10. NOTRE DAME
11. USC
12. MIAMI
13. STANFORD
14. OKLAHOMA
15. OLE MISS
16. SOUTH CAROLINA
17. TEXAS
18. CLEMSON
19. UCLA
20. MICHIGAN
21. OREGON
22. KENTUCKY
23. ARIZONA STATE
24. PENN STATE
25. MICHIGAN STATE
26. BAYLOR
27. VIRGINIA TECH
28. OKLAHOMA STATE
29. NORTH CAROLINA
30. ARKANSAS
31. ARIZONA
32. VIRGINIA
33. WISCONSIN
34. NC STATE
35. MISSISSIPPI STATE
36. NEBRASKA
37. WEST VIRGINIA
38. WASHINGTON
39. MISSOURI
40. SOUTH FLORIDA
41. TEXAS TECH
42. TCU
43. MARYLAND
44. PITTSBURGH
45. VANDERBILT
46. NORTHWESTERN
47. LOUISVILLE
48. CALIFORNIA
49. KANSAS STATE
50. SYRACUSE

BY POSITION

RANKINGS PROVIDED BY 247 COMPOSITE

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PRO-STYLE QUARTERBACKS

	Player	High School (Hometown)	Ht	Wt	School
1.	Kyle Allen	Desert Mountain (Scottsdale, AZ)	6-3	200	Texas A&M
2.	Will Grier	Davidson Day (Davidson, NC)	6-3	187	Florida
3.	Keller Chryst	Palo Alto (Palo Alto, CA)	6-4	220	Stanford
4.	David Cornwell	Norman North (Norman, OK)	6-5	241	Alabama
5.	Jacob Park	Stratford (Goose Creek, SC)	6-3	202	Georgia
6.	Drew Barker	Conner (Hebron, KY)	6-4	210	Kentucky
7.	Brad Kaaya	Chaminade (West Hills, CA)	6-4	215	Miami
8.	Sean White	University School (Fort Lauderdale, FL)	6-2	204	Auburn
9.	Clayton Thorson	Wheaton North (Wheaton, IL)	6-4	205	Northwestern
10.	Caleb Henderson	Lake Braddock (Burke, VA)	6-3	230	North Carolina
11.	K.J. Carta-Samuels	Bellarmine Prep (San Jose, CA)	6-2	210	Washington
12.	DeShone Kizer	Central Catholic (Toledo, OH)	6-5	207	Notre Dame
13.	J.J. Cosentino	Central Catholic (Pittsburgh, PA)	6-4	223	Florida State
14.	Michael O'Connor	IMG Academy (Bradenton, FL)	6-4	223	Penn State
15.	Jalan McClendon	West Mecklenburg (Charlotte, NC)	6-3	192	NC State
16.	Mason Rudolph	Northwestern (Rock Hill, SC)	6-4	210	Oklahoma State
17.	Foster Sawyer	All Saints Episcopal (Fort Worth, TX)	6-5	215	TCU
18.	Chris Durkin	Ursuline (Youngstown, OH)	6-4	216	Virginia Tech
19.	Rafe Peavey	Bolivar (Bolivar, MO)	6-2	212	Arkansas
20.	William Crest	Dunbar (Baltimore, MD)	6-2	190	West Virginia

DUAL-THREAT QUARTERBACKS

	Player	High School (Hometown)	Ht	Wt	School
1.	Deshaun Watson	Gainesville (Gainesville, GA)	6-3	200	Clemson
2.	Jerrod Heard	Guyer (Denton, TX)	6-2	190	Texas
3.	Brandon Harris	Parkway (Bossier City, LA)	6-2	193	LSU
4.	Justice Hansen	Santa Fe (Edmond, OK)	6-3	212	Oklahoma
5.	Morgan Mahalak	Marin Catholic (Greenbrae, CA)	6-3	190	Oregon

RUNNING BACKS

	Player	High School (Hometown)	Ht	Wt	School
1.	Leonard Fournette	St. Augustine (New Orleans, LA)	6-1	226	LSU
2.	Dalvin Cook	Miami Central (Miami, FL)	5-11	190	Florida State
3.	Sony Michel	American Heritage (Fort Lauderdale, FL)	5-11	205	Georgia
4.	Roc Thomas	Oxford (Oxford, AL)	5-11	196	Auburn
5.	Nick Chubb	Cedartown (Cedartown, GA)	5-11	216	Georgia
6.	Royce Freeman	Imperial (Imperial, CA)	5-11	215	Oregon
7.	Joseph Yearby	Miami Central (Miami, FL)	5-9	190	Miami
8.	Elijah Hood	Charlotte Catholic (Charlotte, NC)	5-11	222	North Carolina
9.	Jeff Jones	Washburn (Minneapolis, MN)	5-11	196	Minnesota
10.	Donald Catalon	Eisenhower (Houston, TX)	5-11	190	Texas
11.	Devon Thomas	Broken Arrow (Broken Arrow, OK)	5-10	211	Oklahoma State
12.	Donte Thomas-Williams	Hillside (Durham, NC)	6-0	220	West Virginia
13.	Shai McKenzie	Washington (Washington, PA)	5-11	210	Virginia Tech
14.	Nick Wilson	Central East (Fresno, CA)	5-11	196	Arizona
15.	Samaje Perine	Hendrickson (Pflugerville, TX)	5-11	233	Oklahoma
16.	Aeris Williams	West Point (West Point, MS)	6-1	205	Mississippi State
17.	Traevohn Wrench	Gardner Edgerton (Gardner, KS)	6-0	180	Kansas
18.	Vayante Copeland	Marshall (Dayton, OH)	6-1	185	Michigan State
19.	Chris James	Notre Dame for Boys (Niles, IL)	5-10	211	Pittsburgh
20.	Demario Richard	Palmdale (Palmdale, CA)	5-10	200	Arizona State

ALL-PURPOSE BACKS

	Player	High School (Hometown)	Ht	Wt	School
1.	Joe Mixon	Freedom (Oakley, CA)	6-2	195	Oklahoma
2.	Christian McCaffrey	Valor Christian (Littleton, CO)	6-0	195	Stanford
3.	Derrell Scott	Havelock (Havelock, NC)	5-11	180	Tennessee
4.	Justin Jackson	Shorewood (Carol Stream, IL)	5-11	180	Northwestern
5.	Shaun Nixon	Lake Travis (Austin, TX)	5-9	185	TCU
6.	Stanley Williams	George Walton Academy (Monroe, GA)	5-8	189	Kentucky
7.	Tony James	Gainesville (Gainesville, FL)	5-10	170	Oregon
8.	Jae'lon Oglesby	D.W. Daniel (Central, SC)	6-0	175	Clemson
9.	D.K. Buford	Lafayette (Oxford, MS)	5-11	215	Ole Miss
10.	Jonathan Haden	Friendship Academy (Washington, D.C.)	5-8	180	Arizona

FULLBACKS

	Player	High School (Hometown)	Ht	Wt	School
1.	Gerald Owens	West Deptford (Westville, NJ)	6-1	245	Michigan State
2.	Daniel Gresham	All Saints Episcopal (Fort Worth, TX)	5-9	236	SMU
3.	L.J. Scott	Harding (Marion, OH)	5-10	210	Louisville
4.	Sione Takitaki	Heritage (Brentwood, CA)	6-2	240	BYU
5.	Daniel Marx	Mission Viejo (Mission Viejo, CA)	6-3	238	Stanford

WIDE RECEIVERS

	Player	High School (Hometown)	Ht	Wt	School
1.	Speedy Noil	Edna Karr (New Orleans, LA)	5-11	176	Texas A&M
2.	Malachi Dupre	John Curtis (New Orleans, LA)	6-2	187	LSU
3.	Ermon Lane	Homestead (Homestead, FL)	6-3	193	Florida State
4.	KD Cannon	Mount Pleasant (Mount Pleasant, TX)	6-0	162	Baylor
5.	Josh Malone	Station Camp (Gallatin, TN)	6-2	191	Tennessee
6.	Travis Rudolph	Cardinal Newman (W. Palm Beach, FL)	6-1	185	Florida State
7.	Drake Harris	Grand Rapids Christian (Grand Rapids, MI)	6-4	180	Michigan
8.	Artavis Scott	East Lake (Tarpon Springs, FL)	5-10	175	Clemson
9.	Johnnie Dixon	Dwyer (Palm Beach Gardens, FL)	5-10	187	Ohio State
10.	Trey Quinn	Barbe (Lake Charles, LA)	6-1	200	LSU
11.	Allen Lazard	Urbandale (Urbandale, IA)	6-4	207	Iowa State
12.	Cameron Sims	Ouachita Parish (Monroe, LA)	6-4	199	Alabama
13.	Frank Iheanacho	Westside (Houston, TX)	6-6	220	Texas A&M
14.	Justin Brent	Speedway (Indianapolis, IN)	6-3	190	Notre Dame
15.	Jalen Brown	Mountain Pointe (Phoenix, AZ)	6-2	187	Oregon
16.	Armanti Foreman	Texas City (Texas City, TX)	5-11	176	Texas
17.	Trevion Thompson	Hillside (Durham, NC)	6-3	188	Clemson
18.	Mark Andrews	Desert Mountain (Scottsdale, AZ)	6-6	230	Oklahoma
19.	J.C. Jackson	Immokalee (Immokalee, FL)	5-10	180	Florida
20.	Markell Pack	Purvis (Purvis, MS)	6-2	180	Ole Miss
21.	Saeed Blacknall	Manalapan (Englishtown, NJ)	6-3	210	Penn State
22.	Parris Campbell	St. Vincent-St. Mary (Akron, OH)	6-0	184	Ohio State
23.	Cameron Denson	Salpointe Catholic (Tucson, AZ)	6-1	170	Arizona
24.	Erik Brown	Summit (Fontana, CA)	6-1	170	California
25.	Demarre Kitt	Sandy Creek (Tyrone, GA)	6-1	182	Clemson
26.	Chris Godwin	Middletown (Middletown, DE)	6-1	193	Penn State
27.	Tyler Whiley	Chaparral (Scottsdale, AZ)	6-1	190	Arizona State
28.	Corey Holmes	St. Thomas Aquinas (Fort Lauderdale, FL)	6-2	175	Notre Dame
29.	Rahshead Johnson	Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo (Long Beach, CA)	5-11	165	USC
30.	Lorenzo Joe	Cooper (Abilene, TX)	6-2	196	Texas

TIGHT ENDS

	Player	High School (Hometown)	Ht	Wt	School
1.	Dalton Schultz	Bingham (South Jordan, UT)	6-5	215	Stanford
2.	Bryce Dixon	St. Bonaventure (Ventura, CA)	6-4	220	USC
3.	Jeb Blazevich	Charlotte Christian (Charlotte, NC)	6-4	230	Georgia
4.	Jacory Washington	Westlake (Westlake, LA)	6-5	220	LSU
5.	Daniel Helm	Glenwood (Chatham, IL)	6-4	225	Tennessee
6.	Mike Gesicki	Southern Reg (Manahawkin, NJ)	6-5	236	Penn State
7.	Nic Weishar	Marist (Chicago, IL)	6-5	233	Notre Dame
8.	Mavin Saunders	The Kinkaid School (Houston, TX)	6-6	220	Florida State
9.	Tyler Luatua	La Miranda (La Miranda, CA)	6-4	230	Notre Dame
10.	Kevin Crosby	Bamberg Ehrhardt (Bamberg, SC)	6-0	236	South Carolina

ATHLETES

	Player	High School (Hometown)	Ht	Wt	School
1.	Jabrill Peppers	Paramus Catholic (Paramus, NJ)	6-1	205	Michigan
2.	Bo Scarbrough	IMG Academy (Bradenton, FL)	6-2	225	Alabama
3.	JuJu Smith	Long Beach Poly (Long Beach, CA)	6-1	200	USC
4.	Jalen Hurd	Beech (Hendersonville, TN)	6-3	230	Tennessee
5.	Davion Hall	Liberty-Eylau (Texarkana, TX)	6-3	186	Baylor
6.	Budda Baker	Bellevue (Bellevue, WA)	5-9	174	Washington
7.	Michiah Quick	Central East (Fresno, CA)	6-0	170	Oklahoma
8.	Curtis Samuel	Erasmus Hall (Brooklyn, NY)	6-0	185	Ohio State
9.	Treon Harris	Booker T. Washington (Miami, FL)	5-11	180	Florida
10.	Jamil Kamara	Bishop Sullivan (Virginia Beach, VA)	6-2	211	Virginia

Wrangler

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OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

	Player	High School (Hometown)	Ht	Wt	School
1.	Cameron Robinson	West Monroe (Monroe, LA)	6-7	335	Alabama
2.	Damian Prince	Bishop McNamara (District Heights, MD)	6-5	295	Maryland
3.	Damien Mama	St. John Bosco (Bellflower, CA)	6-4	370	USC
4.	KC McDermott	Palm Beach Central (W. Palm Beach, FL)	6-6	300	Miami
5.	Roderick Taylor	Callaway (Jackson, MS)	6-4	305	Ole Miss
6.	Jamarco Jones	De La Salle Institute (Chicago, IL)	6-5	290	Ohio State
7.	Quenton Nelson	Red Bank Catholic (Red Bank, NJ)	6-5	295	Notre Dame
8.	Braden Smith	Olathe South (Olathe, KS)	6-6	290	Auburn
9.	Ross Pierschbacher	Cedar Falls (Cedar Falls, IA)	6-4	290	Alabama
10.	Casey Tucker	Hamilton (Chandler, AZ)	6-6	270	Stanford
11.	Viane Talamaivao	Centennial (Corona, CA)	6-3	310	USC
12.	Brian Wallace	Christian Brothers (Saint Louis, MO)	6-6	305	Arkansas
13.	Trevor Darling	Miami Central (Miami, FL)	6-4	327	Miami
14.	Demetrius Knox	All Saints Episcopal (Fort Worth, TX)	6-4	294	Ohio State
15.	Garrett Brumfield	University Lab (Baton Rouge, LA)	6-3	272	LSU
16.	Alex Bars	MBA (Nashville, TN)	6-6	309	Notre Dame
17.	Isaiah Wynn	Lakewood (Saint Petersburg, FL)	6-2	272	Georgia
18.	David Sharpe	Providence School (Jacksonville, FL)	6-6	318	Florida
19.	Bentley Spain	Providence (Charlotte, NC)	6-6	275	North Carolina
20.	Jaden Gault	Monona Grove (Madison, WI)	6-7	305	Wisconsin
21.	Roderick Johnson	Hazelwood Central (Florissant, MO)	6-6	315	Florida State
22.	Toa Lobendahn	La Habra (La Habra, CA)	6-3	293	USC
23.	Donell Stanley	Latta (Latta, SC)	6-4	330	South Carolina
24.	Andy Bauer	DeSmet (Saint Louis, MO)	6-5	304	Missouri
25.	J.C. Hassenauer	East Ridge (Saint Paul, MN)	6-2	292	Alabama
26.	Alex Bookser	Mt. Lebanon (Pittsburgh, PA)	6-6	295	Pittsburgh
27.	Steven Moss	Chancellor (Fredericksburg, VA)	6-5	275	Virginia
28.	Sam Mustipher	Good Counsel (Olney, MD)	6-3	285	Notre Dame
29.	Dyshon Sims	Lowndes (Valdosta, GA)	6-4	278	Georgia
30.	Chris Brown	Loyola (Los Angeles, CA)	6-4	290	USC

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

	Player	High School (Hometown)	Ht	Wt	School
1.	Myles Garrett	James Martin (Arlington, TX)	6-4	240	Texas A&M
2.	Da'Shawn Hand	Woodbridge (Woodbridge, VA)	6-4	265	Alabama
3.	Andrew Brown	Oscar Smith (Chesapeake, VA)	6-4	282	Virginia
4.	Lorenzo Carter	Norcross (Norcross, GA)	6-5	232	Georgia
5.	Solomon Thomas	Coppell (Coppell, TX)	6-2	258	Stanford
6.	Chad Thomas	Booker T. Washington (Miami, FL)	6-5	240	Miami
7.	Malik McDowell	Southfield (Southfield, MI)	6-7	290	Michigan State
8.	Gerald Willis	Edna Karr (New Orleans, LA)	6-3	275	Florida
9.	Derick Roberson	William J. Brennan (San Antonio, TX)	6-4	235	Texas
10.	Travonte Valentine	Champagnat Catholic (Hialeah, FL)	6-3	338	LSU
11.	Thomas Holley	Abraham Lincoln (Brooklyn, NY)	6-4	285	Florida
12.	Jalyn Holmes	Lake Taylor (Norfolk, VA)	6-5	225	Ohio State
13.	Bijhon Jackson	El Dorado (El Dorado, AR)	6-1	334	Arkansas
14.	Josh Frazier	Har-Ber (Springdale, AR)	6-3	335	Alabama
15.	Derrick Nnadi	Ocean Lakes (Virginia Beach, VA)	6-1	305	Florida State
16.	Kentavius Street	J.H. Rose (Greenville, NC)	6-2	264	N.C. State
17.	Nifae Lealao	Capital Christian (Sacramento, CA)	6-5	282	Vanderbilt
18.	Dante Sawyer	North Gwinnett (Suwanee, GA)	6-2	262	South Carolina
19.	Bryan Mone	Highland (Salt Lake City, UT)	6-4	338	Michigan
20.	Dewayne Hendrix	O'Fallon (O'Fallon, IL)	6-5	254	Tennessee
21.	Justin Thornton	Vigor (Mobile, AL)	6-5	222	Auburn
22.	Mason Cole	East Lake (Tarpon Springs, FL)	6-4	285	Michigan
23.	Jesse Aniebonam	Good Counsel (Olney, MD)	6-4	230	Maryland
24.	Demarcus Christmas	Manatee (Bradenton, FL)	6-4	287	Florida State
25.	Lamont Gaillard	Pine Forest (Fayetteville, NC)	6-3	310	Georgia
26.	Andrew Trumbetti	Northern Valley (Demarest, NJ)	6-5	250	Notre Dame
27.	DeShawn Washington	Nederland (Nederland, TX)	6-3	277	Texas A&M
28.	Keyon Brown	Hardee County (Wauchula, FL)	6-3	230	Georgia
29.	Davon Godchaux	Plaquemine (Plaquemine, LA)	6-4	265	LSU
30.	Deondre Clark	Douglass (Oklahoma City, OK)	6-2	238	LSU

LINEBACKERS

	Player	High School (Hometown)	Ht	Wt	School
1.	Rashaan Evans	Auburn (Auburn, AL)	6-3	220	Alabama
2.	Raekwon McMillan	Liberty County (Hinesville, GA)	6-2	242	Ohio State
3.	Clifton Garrett	Plainfield South (Plainfield, IL)	6-2	228	LSU
4.	Tre' Williams	St. Paul's Episcopal (Mobile, AL)	6-3	237	Auburn
5.	Christian Miller	Spring Valley (Columbia, SC)	6-4	222	Alabama
6.	Nyles Morgan	Crete-Monee (Crete, IL)	6-1	225	Notre Dame
7.	Dante Booker	St. Vincent-St. Mary (Akron, OH)	6-3	212	Ohio State
8.	Ronnie Clark	Calera (Calera, AL)	6-2	215	Alabama
9.	Jacob Pugh	Godby (Tallahassee, FL)	6-4	221	Florida State
10.	Kain Daub	Sandalwood (Jacksonville, FL)	6-3	234	Florida State
11.	Zach Whitley	North Shore (Houston, TX)	6-2	223	UCLA
12.	Dillon Bates	Ponte Vedra (Ponte Vedra Beach, FL)	6-3	220	Tennessee
13.	Bryson Allen-Williams	Cedar Grove (Ellenwood, GA)	6-1	222	South Carolina
14.	Korie Rogers	Buford (Buford, GA)	6-1	210	Clemson
15.	Kyle Berger	St. Ignatius (Cleveland, OH)	6-3	215	Ohio State
16.	Michael Ferns	St. Clairsville (Saint Clairsville, OH)	6-3	238	Michigan
17.	Otaro Alaka	Cypress Falls (Houston, TX)	6-3	205	Texas A&M
18.	D.J. Calhoun	El Cerrito (El Cerrito, CA)	6-0	215	Arizona State
19.	Bobby Okereke	Foothill (Santa Ana, CA)	6-3	215	Stanford
20.	Edwin Freeman	Bowie (Arlington, TX)	6-0	212	Texas
21.	Hoza Scott	La Porte (La Porte, TX)	6-2	225	Kilgore JC
22.	Kenny Young	John Curtis (New Orleans, LA)	6-2	220	UCLA
23.	Marquis Ware	Bishop Mora Salesian (Los Angeles, CA)	6-2	215	Arizona
24.	Delvin Purifoy	Pensacola Catholic (Pensacola, FL)	6-2	230	Florida State
25.	Shaun Hamilton	Carver (Montgomery, AL)	6-0	240	Alabama
26.	Jamardre Cobb	Bishop Mora Salesian (Los Angeles, CA)	6-2	230	Arizona
27.	Joey Alfieri	Jesuit (Portland, OR)	6-3	220	Stanford
28.	Gyasi Akem	Broken Arrow (Broken Arrow, OK)	6-2	211	Oklahoma State
29.	Josh Walker	Gilmer (Gilmer, TX)	6-1	220	Texas A&M
30.	Richard Yeargin III	University School (Fort Lauderdale, FL)	6-4	225	Clemson

DEFENSIVE BACKS

	Player	High School (Hometown)	Ht	Wt	School
1.	Quin Blanding	Bayside (Virginia Beach, VA)	6-2	200	Virginia
2.	Adoree' Jackson	Junipero Serra (Gardena, CA)	5-10	182	USC
3.	Tony Brown	Ozen (Beaumont, TX)	6-0	188	Alabama
4.	Marlon Humphrey	Hoover (Birmingham, AL)	6-1	175	Alabama
5.	Jalen Tabor	Friendship Academy (Washington, DC)	6-1	182	Florida
6.	Jamal Adams	Hebron (Carrollton, TX)	6-0	199	LSU
7.	Damon Webb	Cass Technical (Detroit, MI)	5-11	180	Ohio State
8.	Ed Paris Jr.	Mansfield Timberview (Arlington, TX)	6-1	190	LSU
9.	Laurence Jones	Neville (Monroe, LA)	6-2	220	Alabama
10.	Marshon Lattimore	Glenville (Cleveland, OH)	6-0	175	Ohio State
11.	Nick Harvey	Travis (Richmond, TX)	5-9	175	Texas A&M
12.	Todd Kelly	Webb School (Knoxville, TN)	6-0	188	Tennessee
13.	Erick Smith	Glenville (Cleveland, OH)	6-1	185	Ohio State
14.	Malkom Parrish	Brooks County (Quitman, GA)	5-9	186	Georgia
15.	Dylan Sumner-Gardner	West Mesquite (Mesquite, TX)	6-1	193	Boise State
16.	Arrion Springs	Roosevelt (San Antonio, TX)	5-11	192	Oregon
17.	C.J. Hampton	Meridian (Meridian, MS)	6-1	195	Ole Miss
18.	Steven Parker	Jenks (Jenks, OK)	6-2	188	Oklahoma
19.	Jaleel Wadood	St. John Bosco (Bellflower, CA)	5-11	170	UCLA
20.	Nick Ruffin	St. Pius X (Atlanta, GA)	6-0	180	Auburn
21.	Kalvaraz Bessent	Camden County (Kingsland, GA)	6-0	170	Auburn
22.	Stephen Roberts	Opelika (Opelika, AL)	6-0	177	Auburn
23.	Parrker Westphal	Bolingbrook (Bolingbrook, IL)	6-0	186	Northwestern
24.	Adarius Pickett	El Cerrito (El Cerrito, CA)	5-11	175	UCLA
25.	Wesley Green	Martin Luther King Jr. (Lithonia, GA)	5-11	170	South Carolina
26.	Trey Marshall	Columbia (Lake City, FL)	5-11	196	Florida State
27.	Nick Watkins	Bishop Dunne Catholic (Dallas, TX)	6-1	185	Notre Dame
28.	Cortez McDowell	Locust Grove (Locust Grove, GA)	6-1	200	Tennessee
29.	Jonathan Lockett	Mater Dei (Santa Ana, CA)	5-11	170	USC
30.	Duke Dawson	Dixie County (Cross City, FL)	5-11	197	Florida

BY CONFERENCE

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RANKINGS PROVIDED BY

247 COMPOSITE

ACC

	Player	High School (Hometown)	Pos	Ht	Wt	School
1.	Quin Blanding	Bayside (Virginia Beach, VA)	DB	6-2	200	Virginia
2.	Andrew Brown	Oscar Smith (Chesapeake, VA)	DL	6-4	282	Virginia
3.	Dalvin Cook	Miami Central (Miami, FL)	RB	5-11	190	Florida State
4.	Ermon Lane	Homestead (Homestead, FL)	WR	6-3	193	Florida State
5.	Chad Thomas	Booker T. Washington (Miami, FL)	DL	6-5	240	Miami
6.	Deshaun Watson	Gainesville (Gainesville, GA)	QB	6-3	200	Clemson
7.	Travis Rudolph	Cardinal Newman (W. Palm Beach, FL)	WR	6-1	185	Florida State
8.	Joseph Yearby	Miami Central (Miami, FL)	RB	5-9	190	Miami
9.	KC McDermott	Palm Beach Central (W. Palm Beach, FL)	OL	6-6	300	Miami
10.	Elijah Hood	Charlotte Catholic (Charlotte, NC)	RB	5-11	222	North Carolina
11.	Artavis Scott	East Lake (Tarpon Springs, FL)	WR	5-10	175	Clemson
12.	Jacob Pugh	Godby (Tallahassee, FL)	LB	6-4	221	Florida State
13.	Kain Daub	Sandalwood (Jacksonville, FL)	LB	6-3	234	Florida State
14.	Trevor Darling	Miami Central (Miami, FL)	OL	6-4	327	Miami
15.	Derrick Nnadi	Ocean Lakes (Virginia Beach, VA)	DL	6-1	305	Florida State
16.	Kentavius Street	J.H. Rose (Greenville, NC)	DL	6-2	264	NC State
17.	Bentley Spain	Providence (Charlotte, NC)	OL	6-6	275	North Carolina
18.	Trevion Thompson	Hillside (Durham, NC)	WR	6-3	188	Clemson
19.	Roderick Johnson	Hazelwood Central (Florissant, MO)	OL	6-6	315	Florida State
20.	Jamil Kamara	Bishop Sullivan (Virginia Beach, VA)	ATH	6-2	211	Virginia
21.	Demarcus Christmas	Manatee (Bradenton, FL)	DL	6-4	287	Florida State
22.	Brad Kaaya	Chaminade (West Hills, CA)	QB	6-4	215	Miami
23.	Korie Rogers	Buford (Buford, GA)	LB	6-1	210	Clemson
24.	Demarre Kitt	Sandy Creek (Tyrone, GA)	WR	6-1	182	Clemson
25.	Anthony Moten	St. Thomas Aquinas (Fort Lauderdale, FL)	DL	6-4	292	Miami
26.	Trey Marshall	Columbia (Lake City, FL)	DB	5-11	196	Florida State
27.	Alex Bookser	Mt. Lebanon (Pittsburgh, PA)	OL	6-6	295	Pittsburgh
28.	Ja'Von Harrison	Kathleen (Lakeland, FL)	ATH	6-1	187	Florida State
29.	Delvin Purifoy	Pensacola Catholic (Pensacola, FL)	LB	6-2	230	Florida State
30.	Caleb Henderson	Lake Braddock (Burke, VA)	QB	6-3	230	North Carolina
31.	Steven Moss	Chancellor (Fredericksburg, VA)	OL	6-5	275	Virginia
32.	Lorenzo Featherston	Page (Greensboro, NC)	DL	6-7	220	Florida State
33.	J.J. Cosentino	Central Catholic (Pittsburgh, PA)	QB	6-4	223	Florida State
34.	Corey Martinez	Tampa Catholic (Tampa, FL)	OL	6-4	297	Florida State
35.	Shai McKenzie	Washington Hs (Washington, PA)	RB	5-11	210	Virginia Tech
36.	Raymon Minor	Benedictine (Richmond, VA)	ATH	6-3	210	Virginia Tech
37.	Mavin Saunders	The Kinkaid School (Houston, TX)	TE	6-6	220	Florida State
38.	Jalan McClendon	West Mecklenburg (Charlotte, NC)	QB	6-3	192	NC State
39.	Richard Yeargin III	University School (Fort Lauderdale, FL)	LB	6-4	225	Clemson
40.	Adam Choice	Thomas Co. Central (Thomasville, GA)	ATH	5-9	206	Clemson

ACC TEAM RANKINGS

1. Florida State
2. Miami
3. Clemson
4. Virginia Tech
5. North Carolina
6. Virginia
7. NC State
8. Pittsburgh
9. Louisville
10. Syracuse
11. Boston College
12. Georgia Tech
13. Duke
14. Wake Forest

BIG TEN TEAM RANKINGS

1. Ohio State
2. Michigan
3. Penn State
4. Michigan State
5. Wisconsin
6. Nebraska
7. Maryland
8. Northwestern
9. Indiana
10. Iowa
11. Minnesota
12. Rutgers
13. Purdue
14. Illinois

BIG TEN

	Player	High School (Hometown)	Pos	Ht	Wt	School
1.	Raekwon McMillan	Liberty County (Hinesville, GA)	LB	6-2	242	Ohio State
2.	Damian Prince	Bishop McNamara (District Heights, MD)	OL	6-5	295	Maryland
3.	Malik McDowell	Southfield (Southfield, MI)	DL	6-7	290	Michigan State
4.	Damon Webb	Cass Technical (Detroit, MI)	CB	5-11	180	Ohio State
5.	Marshon Lattimore	Glenville (Cleveland, OH)	CB	6-0	175	Ohio State
6.	Dante Booker	St. Vincent-St. Mary (Akron, OH)	LB	6-3	212	Ohio State
7.	Jamarco Jones	De La Salle Institute (Chicago, IL)	OL	6-5	290	Ohio State
8.	Curtis Samuel	Erasmus Hall (Brooklyn, NY)	ATH	6-0	185	Ohio State
9.	Jeff Jones	Washburn (Minneapolis, MN)	RB	5-11	196	Minnesota
10.	Erick Smith	Glenville (Cleveland, OH)	DB	6-1	185	Ohio State
11.	Drake Harris	Grand Rapids Christian (Grand Rapids, MI)	WR	6-4	180	Michigan
12.	Johnnie Dixon	Dwyer (Palm Beach Gardens, FL)	WR	5-10	187	Ohio State
13.	Jalyn Holmes	Lake Taylor (Norfolk, VA)	DL	6-5	225	Ohio State
14.	Demetrius Knox	All Saints Episcopal (Fort Worth, TX)	OL	6-4	294	Ohio State
15.	Jaden Gault	Monona Grove (Madison, WI)	OL	6-7	305	Wisconsin
16.	Mason Cole	East Lake (Tarpon Springs, FL)	DL	6-4	285	Michigan
17.	Bryan Mone	Highland (Salt Lake City, UT)	DL	6-4	338	Michigan
18.	Jesse Aniebonam	Good Counsel (Olney, MD)	DL	6-4	230	Maryland
19.	Parrker Westphal	Bolingbrook (Bolingbrook, IL)	CB	6-0	186	Northwestern
20.	Saeed Blacknall	Manalapan (Englishtown, NJ)	WR	6-3	210	Penn State
21.	Parris Campbell	St. Vincent-St. Mary (Akron, OH)	WR	6-0	184	Ohio State
22.	Kyle Berger	St. Ignatius (Cleveland, OH)	LB	6-3	215	Ohio State
23.	Michael Ferns	St. Clairsville (Saint Clairsville, OH)	LB	6-3	238	Michigan
24.	Justin Jackson	Shorewood (Carol Stream, IL)	RB	5-11	180	Northwestern
25.	Chris Godwin	Middletown (Middletown, DE)	WR	6-1	193	Penn State
26.	Lawrence Marshall	Southfield (Southfield, MI)	DL	6-3	225	Michigan
27.	Sam Hubbard	Archbishop Moeller (Cincinnati, OH)	ATH	6-6	225	Ohio State
28.	Clayton Thorson	Wheaton North (Wheaton, IL)	QB	6-4	205	Northwestern
29.	Noah Brown	Pope John XXIII (Sparta, NJ)	ATH	6-2	212	Ohio State
30.	Montae Nicholson	Gateway (Monroeville, PA)	DB	6-3	200	Michigan State
31.	Mike Gesicki	Southern Reg (Manahawkin, NJ)	TE	6-5	236	Penn State
32.	Garrett Dickerson	Bergen Catholic (Oradell, NJ)	DL	6-4	240	Northwestern
33.	Craig Evans	Sun Prairie (Sun Prairie, WI)	DL	6-3	305	Michigan State
34.	De'Andre Thompkins	Swansboro (Swansboro, NC)	WR	6-0	170	Penn State
35.	Terry McLaurin	Cathedral (Indianapolis, IN)	WR	6-0	190	Ohio State
36.	Dominique Booth	Pike (Indianapolis, IN)	WR	6-0	205	Indiana
37.	Tanner Farmer	Highland Park (Highland Park, IL)	OL	6-3	302	Nebraska
38.	Michael O'Connor	IMG Academy (Bradenton, FL)	QB	6-4	223	Penn State
39.	Juwann Winfree	Dwight Morrow (Englewood, NJ)	ATH	6-2	180	Maryland
40.	Kyle Trout	Lancaster (Lancaster, OH)	OL	6-6	300	Ohio State

BIG 12

	Player	High School (Hometown)	Pos	Ht	Wt	School
1.	Joe Mixon	Freedom (Oakley, CA)	RB	6-2	195	Oklahoma
2.	KD Cannon	Mount Pleasant (Mount Pleasant, TX)	WR	6-0	162	Baylor
3.	Davion Hall	Liberty-Eylau (Texarkana, TX)	ATH	6-3	186	Baylor
4.	Michiah Quick	Central East (Fresno, CA)	ATH	6-0	170	Oklahoma
5.	Derick Roberson	William J. Brennan (San Antonio, TX)	DL	6-4	235	Texas
6.	Jerrod Heard	Guyer (Denton, TX)	QB	6-2	190	Texas
7.	Allen Lazard	Urbandale (Urbandale, IA)	WR	6-4	207	Iowa State
8.	Steven Parker	Jenks (Jenks, OK)	DB	6-2	188	Oklahoma
9.	Armanti Foreman	Texas City (Texas City, TX)	WR	5-11	176	Texas
10.	Mark Andrews	Desert Mountain (Scottsdale, AZ)	WR	6-6	230	Oklahoma
11.	Dravon Henry	Aliquippa (Aliquippa, PA)	ATH	5-11	185	West Virginia
12.	Justice Hansen	Santa Fe (Edmond, OK)	QB	6-3	212	Oklahoma
13.	Edwin Freeman	Bowie (Arlington, TX)	LB	6-0	212	Texas
14.	Shaun Nixon	Lake Travis (Austin, TX)	RB	5-9	185	TCU
15.	Lorenzo Joe	Cooper (Abilene, TX)	WR	6-2	196	Texas
16.	Donald Catalon	Eisenhower (Houston, TX)	RB	5-11	190	Texas
17.	Dallis Todd	La Mirada (La Mirada, CA)	WR	6-5	210	Oklahoma
18.	Gyasi Akem	Broken Arrow (Broken Arrow, OK)	LB	6-2	211	Oklahoma State
19.	Devon Thomas	Broken Arrow (Broken Arrow, OK)	RB	5-10	211	Oklahoma State
20.	Donte Thomas-Williams	Hillside (Durham, NC)	RB	6-0	220	West Virginia
21.	Samaje Perine	Hendrickson (Pflugerville, TX)	RB	5-11	233	Oklahoma
22.	John Bonney	Lamar (Houston, TX)	DB	6-0	182	Texas
23	Poona Ford	Hilton Head (Hilton Head Island, SC)	DL	6-0	285	Texas
24.	Mason Rudolph	Northwestern (Rock Hill, SC)	QB	6-4	210	Oklahoma State
25.	Traevohn Wrench	Gardner Edgerton (Gardner, KS)	RB	6-0	180	Kansas
26.	Keenan Brown	Aleif Taylor (Houston, TX)	WR	6-2	205	Oklahoma State
27.	T'Kevian Rockwell	Wylie (Wylie, TX)	LB	6-0	202	Baylor
28.	Jeffery Mead	Union (Tulsa, OK)	WR	6-5	170	Oklahoma
29.	Forest Sawyer	All Saints Episcopal (Fort Worth, TX)	QB	6-5	215	TCU
30.	Jordan Brailford	Booker T. Washington (Tulsa, OK)	DL	6-3	220	Oklahoma State
31.	Chris Hardeman	Aleif Taylor (Houston, TX)	CB	5-8	180	Oklahoma State
32.	Payton Hendrix	Bishop Dunne Catholic (Dallas, TX)	DB	6-3	190	Texas Tech
33.	Natrell Curtis	Mountain Pointe (Phoenix, AZ)	OL	6-3	335	Oklahoma
34.	William Crest	Dunbar (Baltimore, MD)	QB	6-2	190	West Virginia
35.	James David	Rockdale (Rockdale, TX)	LB	6-3	225	Baylor
36.	Ishmael Zamora	Alief Elsik (Houston, TX)	WR	6-3	201	Baylor
37.	Kenyon Frison	Granger (Salt Lake City, UT)	OL	6-5	290	Oklahoma
38.	Emanuel Porter	Lincoln (Dallas, TX)	WR	6-5	190	TCU
39.	Kyron Watson	East St. Louis (East St. Louis, IL)	LB	6-1	225	Kansas
40.	Nigel Bethel	Booker T. Washington (Miami, FL)	DB	5-9	173	Texas Tech

BIG 12 TEAM RANKINGS

1. Oklahoma
2. Texas
3. Baylor
4. Oklahoma State
5. West Virginia
6. Texas Tech
7. TCU
8. Kansas State
9. Kansas
10. Iowa State

Jackson: Peter Brouillet; Hand: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports; Fournette: Times-Picayune/Landov; Allen: AP Photo/Eric Gay; Carter: AP Photo/John Bazemore; Freeman: AP Photo/Imperial Valley Press, Steven Esperanza; McCaffrey: AP Photo/The Denver Post, Karl Gehring

Wrangler

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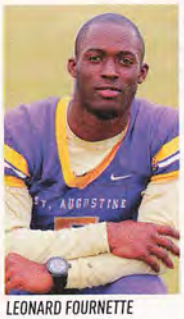
PAC-12

	Player	High School (Hometown)	Pos	Ht	Wt	School
1.	Adoree' Jackson	Junipero Serra (Gardena, CA)	CB	5-10	182	USC
2.	JuJu Smith	Long Beach Poly (Long Beach, CA)	ATH	6-1	200	USC
3.	Solomon Thomas	Coppell (Coppell, TX)	DL	6-2	258	Stanford
4.	Royce Freeman	Imperial (Imperial, CA)	RB	5-11	215	Oregon
5.	Damien Mama	St. John Bosco (Bellflower, CA)	OL	6-4	370	USC
6.	Keller Chryst	Palo Alto (Palo Alto, CA)	QB	6-4	220	Stanford
7.	Budda Baker	Bellevue (Bellevue, WA)	ATH	5-9	174	Washington
8.	Casey Tucker	Hamilton (Chandler, AZ)	OL	6-6	270	Stanford
9.	Arrion Springs	Roosevelt (San Antonio, TX)	CB	5-11	192	Oregon
10.	Christian McCaffrey	Valor Christian (Littleton, CO)	RB	6-0	195	Stanford
11.	Zach Whitley	North Shore (Houston, TX)	LB	6-2	223	UCLA
12.	Dalton Schultz	Bingham (South Jordan, UT)	TE	6-5	215	Stanford
13.	Bryce Dixon	St. Bonaventure (Ventura, CA)	TE	6-4	220	USC
14.	Jalen Brown	Mountain Pointe (Phoenix, AZ)	WR	6-2	187	Oregon
15.	Jaleel Wadood	St. John Bosco (Bellflower, CA)	DB	5-11	170	UCLA
16.	Toa Lobendahn	La Habra (La Habra, CA)	OL	6-3	293	USC
17.	Adarius Pickett	El Cerrito (El Cerrito, CA)	CB	5-11	175	UCLA
18.	Erik Brown	Summit (Fontana, CA)	WR	6-1	170	California
19.	Cameron Denson	Salpointe Catholic (Tucson, AZ)	WR	6-1	170	Arizona
20.	Austin Roberts	Carmel (Carmel, IN)	ATH	6-2	211	UCLA
21.	D.J. Calhoun	El Cerrito (El Cerrito, CA)	LB	6-0	215	Arizona State
22.	Bobby Okereke	Foothill (Santa Ana, CA)	LB	6-3	215	Stanford
23.	Kenny Young	John Curtis (New Orleans, LA)	LB	6-2	220	UCLA
24.	Tyler Whiley	Chaparral (Scottsdale, AZ)	WR	6-1	190	Arizona State
25.	Jonathan Lockett	Mater Dei (Santa Ana, CA)	CB	5-11	170	USC
26.	Rahshead Johnson	Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo (Long Beach, CA)	WR	5-11	165	USC
27.	Marquis Ware	Bishop Mora Salesian (Los Angeles, CA)	LB	6-2	215	Arizona
28.	Nathan Starks	Cherry Creek (Englewood, CO)	ATH	5-11	200	UCLA
29.	Ainuu Taua	Lompoc (Lompoc, CA)	DL	5-11	287	UCLA
30.	Jamardre Cobb	Bishop Mora Salesian (Los Angeles, CA)	LB	6-2	230	Arizona
31.	Joey Alfieri	Jesuit (Portland, OR)	LB	6-3	220	Stanford
32.	K.J. Carta-Samuels	Bellarmine Prep (San Jose, CA)	QB	6-2	210	Washington
33.	Brandon Simmons	Timberview (Arlington, TX)	DB	6-0	175	Stanford
34.	Morgan Mahalak	Marin Catholic (Greenbrae, CA)	QB	6-3	190	Oregon
35.	Jackson Barton	Brighton (Salt Lake City, UT)	OL	6-7	286	Utah
36.	Nick Wilson	Central East (Fresno, CA)	RB	5-11	196	Arizona
37.	Alex Van Dyke	Cosumnes Oaks (Elk Grove, CA)	WR	6-4	205	UCLA
28.	Jalen Harvey	El Cerrito (El Cerrito, CA)	WR	6-1	175	Arizona State
39	Kaleb McGary	Fife (Tacoma, WA)	OL	6-7	270	Washington
40.	Tony James	Gainesville (Gainesville, FL)	APB	5-10	170	Oregon

ADOREE' JACKSON
CB, USC

DA'SHAWN HAND
DE, ALABAMA



LEONARD FOURNETTE
RB, LSU

SEC

	Player	High School (Hometown)	Pos	Ht	Wt	School
1.	Leonard Fournette	St. Augustine (New Orleans, LA)	RB	6-1	226	LSU
2.	Myles Garrett	James Martin (Arlington, TX)	DL	6'4	240	Texas A&M
3.	Cameron Robinson	West Monroe (Monroe, LA)	OL	6-7	335	Alabama
4.	Da'Shawn Hand	Woodbridge (Woodbridge, VA)	DL	6-4	265	Alabama
5.	Speedy Noil	Edna Karr (New Orleans, LA)	WR	5-11	176	Texas A&M
6.	Tony Brown	Ozen (Beaumont, TX)	CB	6-0	188	Alabama
7.	Kyle Allen	Desert Mountain (Scottsdale, AZ)	QB	6-3	200	Texas A&M
8.	Marlon Humphrey	Hoover (Birmingham, AL)	CB	6-1	175	Alabama
9.	Jalen Tabor	Friendship Academy (Washington, DC)	CB	6-1	182	Florida
10.	Rashaan Evans	Auburn (Auburn, AL)	LB	6-3	220	Alabama
11.	Bo Scarbrough	IMG Academy (Bradenton, FL)	ATH	6-2	225	Alabama
12.	Malachi Dupre	John Curtis (New Orleans, LA)	WR	6-2	187	LSU
13.	Lorenzo Carter	Norcross (Norcross, GA)	DL	6-5	232	Georgia
14.	Sony Michel	American Heritage (Fort Lauderdale, FL)	RB	5-11	205	Georgia
15.	Roc Thomas	Oxford (Oxford, AL)	RB	5-11	196	Auburn
16.	Clifton Garrett	Plainfield South (Plainfield, IL)	LB	6-2	228	LSU
17.	Tre' Williams	St. Paul's Episcopal (Mobile, AL)	LB	6-3	237	Auburn
18.	Jamal Adams	Hebron (Carrollton, TX)	DB	6-0	199	LSU
19.	Nick Chubb	Cedartown (Cedartown, GA)	RB	5-11	216	Georgia
20.	Gerald Willis	Edna Karr (New Orleans, LA)	DL	6-3	275	Florida
21.	Josh Malone	Station Camp (Gallatin, TN)	WR	6-2	191	Tennessee
22.	Christian Miller	Spring Valley (Columbia, SC)	LB	6-4	222	Alabama
23.	Jalen Hurd	Beech (Hendersonville, TN)	ATH	6-3	230	Tennessee
24.	Ed Paris Jr.	Mansfield Timberview (Arlington, TX)	DB	6-1	190	LSU
25.	Roderick Taylor	Callaway (Jackson, MS)	OL	6-4	305	Ole Miss
26.	Will Grier	Davidson Day (Davidson, NC)	QB	6-3	187	Florida
27.	Laurence Jones	Neville (Monroe, LA)	DB	6-2	220	Alabama
28.	Nick Harvey	Travis (Richmond, TX)	CB	5-9	175	Texas A&M
29.	Todd Kelly	Webb School (Knoxville, TN)	DB	6-0	188	Tennessee
30.	Braden Smith	Olathe South (Olathe, KS)	OL	6-6	290	Auburn
31.	Travonte Valentine	Champagnat Catholic (Hialeah, FL)	DL	6-3	338	LSU
32.	Malkom Parrish	Brooks County (Quitman, GA)	CB	5-9	186	Georgia
33.	Ronnie Clark	Calera (Calera, AL)	LB	6-2	215	Alabama
34.	Ross Pierschbacher	Cedar Falls (Cedar Falls, IA)	OL	6-4	290	Alabama
35.	Brandon Harris	Parkway (Bossier City, LA)	QB	6-2	193	LSU
36.	Thomas Holley	Abraham Lincoln (Brooklyn, NY)	DL	6-4	285	Florida
37.	Trey Quinn	Barbe (Lake Charles, LA)	WR	6-1	200	LSU
38.	David Cornwell	Norman North (Norman, OK)	QB	6-5	241	Alabama
39.	Bijhon Jackson	El Dorado (El Dorado, AR)	DL	6-1	334	Arkansas
40.	Cameron Sims	Ouachita Parish (Monroe, LA)	WR	6-4	199	Alabama

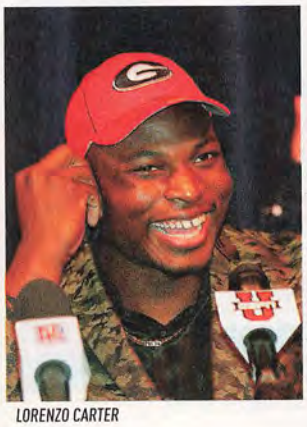
PAC-12 TEAM RANKINGS

1. USC
2. Stanford
3. UCLA
4. Oregon
5. Arizona State
6. Arizona
7. Washington
8. California
9. Oregon State
10. Washington State
11. Utah
12. Colorado

SEC TEAM RANKINGS

1. Alabama
2. LSU
3. Texas A&M
4. Auburn
5. Tennessee
6. Georgia
7. Florida
8. Ole Miss
9. South Carolina
10. Kentucky
11. Arkansas
12. Mississippi State
13. Missouri
14. Vanderbilt

KYLE ALLEN
QB, TEXAS A&M



LORENZO CARTER
DE, GEORGIA

ROYCE FREEMAN
RB, OREGON

CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY
RB, STANFORD

BY CONFERENCE

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RANKINGS PROVIDED BY
247 COMPOSITE

AMERICAN

	Player	High School (Hometown)	Pos	Ht	Wt	School
1.	Kyle Gibson	Armwood (Seffner, FL)	DB	6-0	170	UCF
2.	Quinton Flowers	Miami Jackson (Miami, FL)	QB	6-0	203	South Florida
3.	Chris Williams	Camden County (Kingsland, GA)	DB	6-1	181	UCF
4.	Kevin Mouhon	Norcross (Norcross, GA)	LB	6-0	223	Cincinnati
5.	Kendall Sawyer	East Lee County (Leigh Acres, FL)	CB	5-11	175	South Florida
6.	Ryeshene Bronson	Dunbar (Fort Myers, FL)	WR	6-3	180	South Florida
7.	Jimmy Bayes	Immokalee (Immokalee, FL)	ATH	6-3	190	South Florida
8.	D'Ernest Johnson	Immokalee (Immokalee, FL)	RB	5-10	180	South Florida
9.	Tyler Harris	Pierce County (Blackshear, GA)	QB	6-4	225	UCF
10.	Mike Rogers	Campbell (Smyrna, GA)	DB	6-0	185	UCF

AMERICAN TEAM RANKINGS

1. South Florida
2. UCF
3. Cincinnati
4. Temple
5. Houston
6. East Carolina
7. SMU
8. Memphis
9. Tulsa
10. Tulane
11. Connecticut

C-USA

	Player	High School (Hometown)	Pos	Ht	Wt	School
1.	Kendall Gant	Lake Gibson (Lakeland, FL)	DB	6-2	185	Marshall
2.	Daniel Appouh	Seneca Valley (Germantown, MD)	LB	6-4	230	Old Dominion
3.	Nathaniel Devers	Washington (Massillon, OH)	OL	6-5	275	Marshall
4.	Trey Rodriguez	Mainland (Daytona Beach, FL)	RB	5-10	175	FAU
5.	Demetrius Johnson	Annapolis Christian (Annapolis, MD)	ATH	6-2	195	Marshall
6.	Cedric Johnson	Rowlett (Rowlett, TX)	DL	6-1	298	Louisiana Tech
7.	Walden Davis	Peachtree Ridge (Suwanee, GA)	DB	6-0	187	Southern Miss
8.	Samuel Stewart	Cypress Woods (Cypress, TX)	RB	5-8	184	Rice
9.	Emanuel Beal	Hillgrove (Powder Springs, GA)	WR	6-1	200	Marshall
10.	Keion Davis	Langston Hughes (Fairburn, GA)	ATH	6-0	175	Marshall

C-USA TEAM RANKINGS

1. Marshall
2. Old Dominion
3. Louisiana Tech
4. Southern Miss
5. Middle Tennessee
6. Western Kentucky
7. Rice
8. Florida Atlantic
9. North Texas
10. FIU
11. UAB
12. Charlotte
13. UTEP
14. UTSA

MAC

	Player	High School (Hometown)	Pos	Ht	Wt	School
1.	Lonnie Johnson	West Side (Gary, IN)	DB	6-3	190	Western Michigan
2.	Chance Stewart	Sturgis (Sturgis, MI)	QB	6-5	210	Western Michigan
3.	Nilijah Ballew	Walnut Hills (Cincinnati, OH)	DB	6-1	180	Bowling Green
4.	Chukwuma Okorafor	Southfield (Southfield, MI)	OL	6-6	285	Western Michigan
5.	J.T. Blyden	Cardinal O'Hara (Springfield, MA)	RB	5-11	195	UMass
6.	Javonte Seabury	Timber Creek (Orlando, FL)	WR	5-9	165	Western Michigan
7.	Joey Duckworth	Louisville (Louisville, OH)	QB	6-3	215	Ohio
8.	Deion Hallmon	Cypress Bay (Fort Lauderdale, FL)	DB	6-0	175	Northern Illinois
9.	Jared McCray	Minford (Minford, OH)	OL	6-4	303	Ohio
10.	Kenny Jones	Lawrence Central (Indianapolis, IN)	WR	6-3	190	Eastern Michigan

MAC TEAM RANKINGS

1. Western Michigan
2. Toledo
3. Buffalo
4. Northern Illinois
5. Bowling Green
6. Ball State
7. Ohio
8. UMass
9. Akron
10. Central Michigan
11. Miami
12. Kent State
13. Eastern Michigan

MOUNTAIN WEST

	Player	High School (Hometown)	Pos	Ht	Wt	School
1.	Dylan Sumner-Gardner	West Mesquite (Mesquite, TX)	DB	6-1	193	Boise State
2.	Chase Blakley	Coeur d'Alene (Coeur d'Alene, ID)	ATH	6-4	220	Boise State
3.	Donavin Buck	Brawley (Brawley, CA)	DL	6-4	210	San Diego State
4.	Mikah Holder	Oceanside (Oceanside, CA)	WR	6-1	171	San Diego State
5.	Silvester Hayes	South Oak Cliff (Dallas, TX)	DL	6-3	215	Colorado State
6.	Patrick Choudja	Freedom (Oakley, CA)	DL	6-4	230	Nevada
7.	Korey Rush	East (Salt Lake City, UT)	DL	6-0	245	Nevada
8.	Cory Young	Norco (Norco, CA)	RB	5-10	180	Boise State
9.	Troy Bacon	Oak Hills (Hesperia, CA)	OL	6-3	281	Boise State
10.	P.J. Walker	Citrus Hill (Perris, CA)	RB	5-11	195	San Diego State

MOUNTAIN WEST TEAM RANKINGS

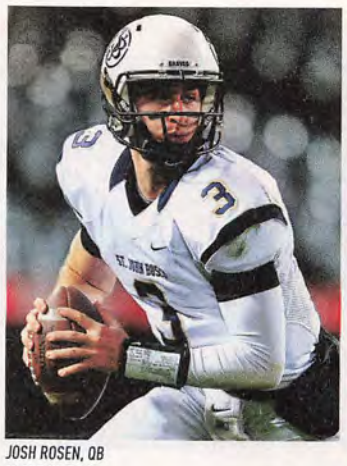
1. Boise State
2. San Diego State
3. Fresno State
4. San Jose State
5. Colorado State
6. Nevada
7. New Mexico
8. Hawaii
9. Utah State
10. Air Force
11. Wyoming
12. UNLV

SUN BELT

	Player	High School (Hometown)	Pos	Ht	Wt	School
1.	Anthony Jones	Edna Karr (New Orleans, LA)	TE	6-5	238	UL-Lafayette
2.	T.J. Posey	Gadsden City (Gadsden, AL)	LB	6-0	226	UL-Lafayette
3.	Ken Edwards	Neshoba Central (Philadelphia, MS)	DL	6-6	245	UL-Lafayette
4.	Trayvon Williams	Camden County (Kingsland, GA)	OL	6-3	315	Georgia Southern
5.	Shaedon Meadors	Byrnes (Duncan, SC)	WR	6-2	180	Appalachian State
6.	Nikia Cathey	Westwood (Memphis, TN)	ATH	5-8	175	Appalachian State
7.	Kameron Maye	Murphy (Mobile, AL)	ATH	6-0	177	Georgia Southern
8.	Blaise Taylor	Auburn (Auburn, AL)	ATH	5-8	170	Arkansas State
9.	Nehemiah Wagner	Horn (Mesquite, TX)	DB	5-11	172	Arkansas State
10.	Ed Curney	Carver (Atlanta, GA)	LB	6-0	215	Georgia State

SUN BELT TEAM RANKINGS

1. Georgia Southern
2. Appalachian State
3. Arkansas State
4. Texas State
5. Georgia State
6. Louisiana-Lafayette
7. South Alabama
8. Idaho
9. New Mexico State
10. ULM
11. Troy



JOSH ROSEN, QB
CLASS OF 2015

KEVIN TOLIVER II , DB
CLASS OF 2015

Rosen: Louis Lopez/CSM /Landov; Toliver: AP Photo/Phelan M. Ebenhack

RISING SENIORS CLASS OF 2015 TOP 100

presented by Wrangler

	Player	High School (Hometown)	Pos	Ht	Wt
1.	Trent Thompson	Westover (Albany, GA)	DL	6-4	292
2.	Kevin Toliver II	Trinity Christian Academy (Jacksonville, FL)	DB	6-2	185
3.	Mitch Hyatt	North Gwinnett (Suwanee, GA)	OL	6-5	271
4.	Josh Rosen	St. John Bosco (Bellflower, CA)	QB	6-4	205
5.	Martez Ivey	Apopka (Apopka, FL)	OL	6-6	270
6.	Ricky Town	St. Bonaventure (Ventura, CA)	QB	6-4	205
7.	CeCe Jefferson	Baker County Senior (Glen Saint Mary, FL)	DL	6-2	250
8.	Kendall Sheffield	Fort Bend Marshall (Missouri City, TX)	DB	5-11	180
9.	Iman Marshall	Long Beach Poly (Long Beach, CA)	DB	6-1	190
10.	Daylon Mack	Gladewater (Gladewater, TX)	DL	6-2	310
11.	Daron Payne	Shades Valley (Birmingham, AL)	DL	6-2	316
12.	Malik Jefferson	Poteet (Mesquite, TX)	LB	6-2	225
13.	Torrance Gibson	American Heritage (Fort Lauderdale, FL)	QB	6-4	200
14.	George Campbell	East Lake (Tarpon Springs, FL)	WR	6-3	184
15.	Derwin James	Haines City Senior (Haines City, FL)	DB	6-2	201
16.	Shy Tuttle	North Davidson (Lexington, NC)	DL	6-3	315
17.	John Houston	Junipero Serra (Gardena, CA)	LB	6-3	211
18.	Tim Settle	Stonewall Jackson (Manassas, VA)	DL	6-3	318
19.	Rasheem Green	Junipero Serra (Gardena, CA)	DL	6-5	275
20.	Terry Godwin	Callaway (Hogansville, GA)	ATH	6-0	168
21.	Damien Harris	Madison Southern (Berea, KY)	RB	5-11	205
22.	Maea Teuhema	Keller (Keller, TX)	OL	6-4	346
23.	Shameik Blackshear	Bluffton (Bluffton, SC)	DL	6-5	240
24.	Terry Beckner Jr.	East St Louis (East Saint Louis, IL)	DL	6-4	293
25.	Jalin Barnett	Lawton (Lawton, OK)	OL	6-4	315
26.	Justin Hilliard	St. Xavier (Cincinnati, OH)	LB	6-2	230
27.	Damarkus Lodge	Cedar Hill (Cedar Hill, TX)	WR	6-2	190
28.	Minkah Fitzpatrick	St. Peters Prep (Jersey City, NJ)	DB	6-0	185
29.	Josh Sweat	Oscar Smith (Chesapeake, VA)	DL	6-5	230
30.	Jashon Cornell	Cretin Derham Hall (Saint Paul, MN)	DL	6-4	270
31.	Byron Cowart	Armwood (Seffner, FL)	DL	6-4	250
32.	Tarvarus McFadden	American Heritage (Fort Lauderdale, FL)	DB	6-3	198
33.	Jarrett Stidham	Stephenville (Stephenville, TX)	QB	6-3	190
34.	Jeffery Holland	Trinity Christian Academy (Jacksonville, FL)	LB	6-2	230
35.	Mekhi Brown	Carver (Columbus, GA)	DL	6-6	230
36.	Christian Kirk	Saguaro (Scottsdale, AZ)	WR	5-11	197
37.	Kerryon Johnson	Madison Academy (Madison, AL)	ATH	6-0	200
38.	Kyler Murray	Allen (Allen, TX)	QB	5-11	170
39.	Albert Huggins	Orangeburg-Wilkinson (Orangeburg, SC)	DL	6-3	279
40.	Keisean Lucier-South	Lutheran-Orange County (Orange, CA)	DL	6-5	215
41.	Tyron Johnson	Warren Easton (New Orleans, LA)	WR	6-1	191
42.	Taj Griffin	McEachern (Powder Springs, GA)	RB	5-10	175
43.	Calvin Ridley	Monarch (Pompano Beach, FL)	WR	6-2	170
44.	Canton Kaumatule	Punahou (Honolulu, HI)	DL	6-6	275
45.	Chuma Edoga	McEachern (Powder Springs, GA)	OL	6-4	276
46.	Jacob Daniel	Clovis North (Clovis, CA)	DL	6-4	310
47.	Jamal Peters	Bassfield (Bassfield, MS)	DB	6-3	200
48.	Jerome Baker	Benedictine (Cleveland, OH)	ATH	6-1	205
49.	Marvell Tell	Crespi (Encino, CA)	DB	6-2	175
50.	Soso Jamabo	Plano West (Plano, TX)	RB	6-3	210
51.	Aliz'e Jones	Bishop Gorman (Las Vegas, NV)	TE	6-4	222
52.	Jordan Scarlett	St. Thomas Aquinas (Fort Lauderdale, FL)	RB	5-10	197
53.	Sterling Jenkins	Baldwin (Pittsburgh, PA)	OL	6-8	305
54.	Desherrius Flowers	Vigor (Mobile, AL)	RB	6-1	212
55.	Christian Wilkins	Suffield Academy (Suffield, CT)	DL	6-4	290
56.	Natrez Patrick	Mays (Atlanta, GA)	DL	6-3	220
57.	Deionte Thompson	West Orange-Stark (Orange, TX)	DB	6-2	181
58.	Brian Cole	Heritage (Saginaw, MI)	ATH	6-2	190
59.	Javon Patterson	Petal (Petal, MS)	OL	6-4	290
60.	Ricky DeBerry	St. Christopher's School (Richmond, VA)	LB	6-2	245
61.	Breiden Fehoko	Farrington (Honolulu, HI)	DL	6-3	290
62.	Rashad Roundtree	Lakeside (Evans, GA)	DB	6-1	195
63.	Jacques Patrick	Timber Creek (Orlando, FL)	RB	6-1	220
64.	Nick Brossette	University Lab (Baton Rouge, LA)	RB	6-0	207
65.	Kahlil McKenzie	De La Salle (Concord, CA)	DL	6-4	309
66.	Drew Richmond	Memphis University School (Memphis, TN)	OL	6-5	320
67.	Tyrek Cole	Miramar (Hollywood, FL)	DB	5-11	170
68.	Derrius Guice	Catholic (Baton Rouge, LA)	RB	5-10	195
69.	Tristen Hoge	Highland (Pocatello, ID)	OL	6-5	287
70.	Jalen Dalton	West Forsyth (Clemmons, NC)	DL	6-5	220
71.	Roquan Smith	Macon County (Montezuma, GA)	LB	6-2	205
72.	Eric Glover-Williams	McKinley (Canton, OH)	DB	5-11	165
73.	Preston Williams	Lovejoy (Hampton, GA)	WR	6-4	190
74.	Jake Fruhmorgen	Plant (Tampa, FL)	OL	6-5	280
75.	Da'Vante Phillips	Miami Central (Miami, FL)	WR	6-1	197
76.	Shawn Burgess-Becker	Monarch (Pompano Beach, FL)	ATH	6-1	185
77.	Hjalte Froholdt	Warren G Harding (Warren, OH)	DL	6-4	282
78.	Blake Barnett	Santiago (Corona, CA)	QB	6-3	195
79.	Matthew Burrell	C. D. Hylton (Woodbridge, VA)	OL	6-5	290
80.	Rodney Anderson	Katy (Katy, TX)	RB	6-0	204
81.	Osa Masina	Brighton (Salt Lake City, UT)	LB	6-4	218
82.	Shaun Crawford	St. Edward (Lakewood, OH)	DB	5-9	170
83.	Malik Dear	Murrah (Jackson, MS)	ATH	5-9	217
84.	Clelin Ferrell	Benedictine (Richmond, VA)	DL	6-5	225
85.	Brady White	Hart (Newhall, CA)	QB	6-2	190
86.	Ronald Jones II	McKinney North (Mckinney, TX)	RB	6-0	185
87.	Eric Swinney	Sandy Creek (Tyrone, GA)	RB	5-10	188
88.	Leo Lewis	Brookhaven (Brookhaven, MS)	LB	6-3	225
89.	Stanley Norman	Junipero Serra (Gardena, CA)	ATH	6-0	172
90.	Cordell Broadus	Bishop Gorman (Las Vegas, NV)	WR	6-2	195
91.	John Burt	Lincoln (Tallahassee, FL)	WR	6-3	170
92.	Josh Wariboko	Casady School (Oklahoma City, OK)	OL	6-3	280
93.	Garrett Taylor	St. Christopher's School (Richmond, VA)	DB	6-1	188
94.	Richie Petitbon	Gonzaga (Washington, DC)	OL	6-4	301
95.	Alex Ofodile	Rock Bridge (Columbia, MO)	WR	6-3	185
96.	Dexter Williams	West Orange (Winter Garden, FL)	RB	6-0	192
97.	Larry Scott	Hubbard (Hubbard, OH)	RB	6-0	205
98.	Devonaire Clarington	Champagnat Catholic-Hialeah (Hialeah, FL)	TE	6-6	222
99.	Jahvoni Simmons	Ocean Lakes (Virginia Beach, VA)	LB	6-1	225
100.	James Lockhart	Ennis (Ennis, TX)	DL	6-3	245

2014 BOWL PROJECTIONS

ALAMO
Pac-12 No. 2 vs. Big 12 No. 2
STANFORD VS. TEXAS

ARMED FORCES
American vs. Army/Big 12 No. 7
HOUSTON VS. OREGON STATE*

BAHAMAS
C-USA vs. MAC
MIDDLE TENNESSEE VS. OHIO

BELK
ACC No. 3-6 vs. SEC No. 3-8
LOUISVILLE VS. MISSISSIPPI STATE

BIRMINGHAM
American vs. SEC No. 9
UCF VS. VANDERBILT

BOCA RATON
MAC vs. C-USA
NORTHERN ILLINOIS VS. FAU

BUFFALO WILD WINGS
Big 12 No. 6 vs. Pac-12 No. 7
TEXAS TECH VS. WASHINGTON STATE

CAMELLIA
MAC vs. Sun Belt
TOLEDO VS. ARKANSAS STATE

CAPITAL ONE
SEC No. 2 vs. Big Ten/ACC
OLE MISS VS. MICHIGAN STATE

DETROIT
Big Ten vs. ACC No. 7-9
NORTHWESTERN VS. SYRACUSE

FAMOUS IDAHO POTATO
MAC vs. Mountain West
BALL STATE VS. NEVADA

FIGHT HUNGER
Pac-12 No. 4 vs. Big Ten No. 5-7
ARIZONA STATE VS. MINNESOTA

GATOR
ACC/Big Ten vs. SEC No. 3-8
VIRGINIA TECH VS. LSU

GODADDY
MAC vs. Sun Belt
BOWLING GREEN VS. SOUTH ALABAMA

HAWAII
Mountain West vs. C-USA
COLORADO STATE VS. RICE

HEART OF DALLAS
C-USA vs. Big Ten
UTSA VS. MARYLAND

HOLIDAY
Pac-12 No. 3 vs. Big Ten No. 2-4
USC VS. MICHIGAN

INDEPENDENCE
ACC No. 7-9 vs. SEC No. 3-8
DUKE VS. UTAH*

LAS VEGAS
Mountain West No. 1 vs. Pac-12 No. 6
BOISE STATE VS. ARIZONA

LIBERTY
Big 12 No. 5 vs. SEC No. 3-8
OKLAHOMA STATE VS. TENNESSEE

MIAMI BEACH
American vs. BYU
EAST CAROLINA VS. BYU

MILITARY
ACC No. 7-9 vs. American
PITTSBURGH VS. CINCINNATI

MUSIC CITY
ACC/Big Ten vs. SEC No. 3-8
IOWA VS. MISSOURI

NEW MEXICO
C-USA vs. Mountain West
NORTH TEXAS VS. SAN DIEGO STATE

NEW ORLEANS
Sun Belt vs. Mountain West
UL LAFAYETTE VS. UTAH STATE

OUTBACK
Big Ten No. 2-4 vs. SEC No. 3-8
WISCONSIN VS. FLORIDA

PINSTRIPE
ACC No. 3-6 vs. Big Ten No. 5-7
NORTH CAROLINA VS. NEBRASKA

POINSETTIA
Mountain West vs. Navy
FRESNO STATE VS. NAVY

RUSSELL ATHLETIC
ACC No. 2 vs. Big 12 No. 3
NOTRE DAME VS. KANSAS STATE

ST. PETERSBURG
American vs. ACC No. 10
SOUTH FLORIDA VS. GEORGIA TECH

SUN
ACC No. 3-6 vs. Pac-12 No. 5
MIAMI VS. WASHINGTON

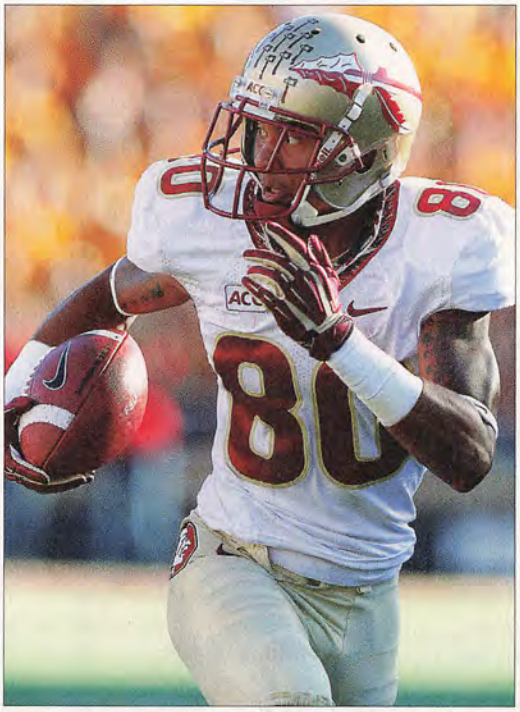
TEXAS
Big 12 No. 4 vs. SEC No. 3-8
TCU VS. TEXAS A&M

CHICK-FIL-A PEACH
At-large vs. At-large
GEORGIA VS. MARSHALL

FIESTA
At-large vs. At-large
OREGON VS. SOUTH CAROLINA

COTTON
At-large vs. At-large
UCLA VS. BAYLOR

ORANGE
ACC No. 1 vs. Big Ten/ND/SEC
CLEMSON VS. AUBURN



Paul Connors

COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF

Playoff Semifinal
ROSE BOWL
ALABAMA VS. OHIO STATE

Playoff Semifinal
SUGAR BOWL
FLORIDA STATE VS. OKLAHOMA

Winner of Rose Bowl vs. Winner of Sugar Bowl
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP (ARLINGTON, TEXAS)
FLORIDA STATE VS. ALABAMA

* According to our projections, the Big 12 and SEC will fail to fill their allotted slots.

HERE'S A THOUGHT: AT YOUR NEXT SKITTLES® PARTY, WHY NOT WATCH SOME FOOTBALL?

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